

THE TIMES



No. 65,887

MONDAY MAY 12 1997

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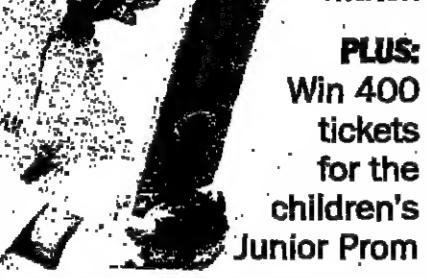
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Melvyn Bragg: What Labour will do for the arts



TOMORROW

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WEDNESDAY

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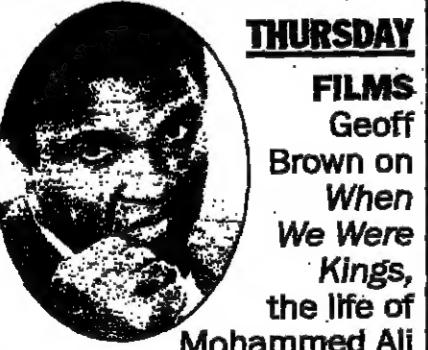


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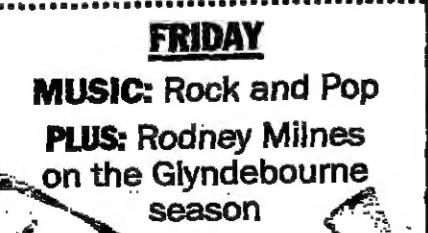
The buzz on Broadway: Benedict Nightingale reports from New York



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Geoff Brown on When We Were Kings, the life of Mohammed Ali



FRIDAY

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PLUS: Rodney Milnes on the Glyndebourne season



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THIS WEEKEND, CAR 97, WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 FOR YOUNG READERS AND 7-DAY TV AND RADIO GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY

Ex-ministers turn on challenger

Double blow to Howard's bid for leadership

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HOWARD'S Tory leadership bid suffered a serious setback yesterday with revelations that two former ministerial colleagues plan to go public with damaging allegations about his performance as Home Secretary.

Ann Widdecombe, the Home Office Minister of State from July 1995, will break her silence over Mr Howard's controversial dismissal of Derek Lewis as director general of the Prison Service in October 1995.

Miss Widdecombe, who fiercely opposed the decision and is supporting Peter Lilley for the leadership, will make a series of criticisms of Mr Howard's role in a letter to John Major. In a move aimed at limiting Mr Howard's chances of succeeding Mr Major, she will publish the letter only weeks before the first leadership ballot.

She has also not ruled out making a highly charged personal statement to the House of Commons about the controversy over Mr Lewis. Such a move would stir memories of Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation speech which fatally wounded Margaret Thatcher. It could inflict serious damage on Mr Howard's campaign.

But the attack will not be restricted to the row over Mr Lewis, who was dismissed, against the advice of senior prison managers, in October 1995.

Miss Widdecombe, who has told friends that Mr Howard is "dangerous stuff" and has "something of the night" in his personality, will seek to raise concern among the 164 MPs voting in the contest about his ability to withstand pressure, his man-management

Mr Howard's supporters attempted to play down the intervention of Miss Widdecombe, who they dismissed as acting out of "personal pique," they suffered a second blow. *The Times* has learnt that Charles Wardle, a former Home Office immigration minister, is planning to raise an issue in the Commons which has dogged Mr Howard and the Tory Party.

Mr Wardle is seeking an adjournment debate to raise a damning report by the Department of Trade and Industry into the take-



skills and alleged refusal to accept blame when the going gets tough.

Friends of Mr Howard rallied to his defence and said MPs would see through the Widdecombe attack. David Maclean, a former Home Office minister, is a key member of the Howard campaign team. "It shows that he is a good minister to work with," said one Howard supporter.

But as Mr Howard's supporters attempted to play down the intervention of Miss Widdecombe, who they dismissed as acting out of "personal pique," they suffered a second blow. *The Times* has learnt that Charles Wardle, a former Home Office immigration minister, is planning to raise an issue in the Commons which has dogged Mr Howard and the Tory Party.

Mr Wardle is seeking an adjournment debate to raise a damning report by the Department of Trade and Industry into the take-

over of Harrods by Mohamed Al Fayed. The report led to a serious clash between Mr Howard and Mr Wardle. Mr Wardle rejected, on the advice of Home Office civil servants, a citizenship application by Mr Al Fayed's brother. Relations between Mr Howard and Mr Wardle, whose decision was upheld, have never recovered. If Mr Wardle secures his debate before the leadership election it could renew the pressure on Mr Howard.

A friend of Mr Wardle, who has not decided which candidate to support but will choose between John Redwood, William Hague and Peter Lilley, said last night: "Charles is not being vindictive against Michael Howard. But he believes there are things that have to come out now because there are too many unresolved issues and questions left hanging in the air."

The move by Mr Wardle has prompted some friends of Mr Howard to speculate on whether there is an organised "stop Howard" campaign. All six leadership camps have taken vows not to act against each other. But some of Mr Howard's supporters suspect that "dirty tricks" are afoot.

The launch of Mr Howard's leadership bid was overshadowed last week when his supporters leaked details of an apparent agreement struck over champagne for Mr Hague to act as his deputy.

Mr Howard appeared relaxed yesterday about the plan by Miss Widdecombe to go public. He told the BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*: "Ann and I disagreed about a very important decision, the dismissal of Derek Lewis as head of the prison service.

"I had to overrule her because there was an independent report which made very serious criticisms of the prison service management from top to bottom.

"Ann felt very strongly about that. We disagreed. I am convinced the decision we made was the right one and few decisions have been subject to more Parliamentary scrutiny — including a debate on the floor of the House of Commons — than that one."

A key aide to Mr Howard said: "People will see through this. It is personally motivated. One of the key members of the campaign team is David Maclean. That will speak volumes. He was one of the most talented members of the government and he is supporting Michael."

The controversy over Mr Lewis's sacking and prison standards led to a full-scale Commons row two years ago. Mr Howard suffered an embarrassment when the Home Office made a £220,000 settlement to Mr Lewis after he took the case to court for wrongful dismissal.

Mr Brown has told colleagues that the mortgage relief, or Miras, cannot be sustained by a Labour Government and he will continue the phasing out of the relief begun by the Conservatives but put on hold in the run-up to the election. At present, tax relief is given at 15 per cent on the first £30,000 but Mr Brown is understood to consider the allowance an anachronism and

believes that money should be channeled into providing housing for the homeless.

However, the Chancellor is not

expected to end the relief at a stroke but is likely to signal a gradual phasing out by removing the allowance from new mortgages. Although estate agents insist that such a move will harm the housing market in its early stages of recovery, government sources argue that the property market is becoming strong enough to withstand the change.

The Chancellor will unveil a range of measures extending well beyond the windfall tax and value-added tax proposals announced before the general election.

As well as taxing what he describes as the excessive short-term profits of the privatised utilities, Mr Brown will an-

Continued on page 2, col 5

intend to relax the code even further.

Lord Mayors of London have been hosting the dinner at the Mansion House, a focus of the business community, since 1877. They regard it as an important social bridge between the City and the Government especially on the frequent occasions when the two are otherwise barely on speaking terms.

Mr Brown's decision will create

a dilemma for the 350 guests, who

intend to make any less welcome."

Pragmatic Brown suits himself in the City

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND CAROL MIDDLETON

GORDON BROWN will abandon formal dress for a lounge suit when he delivers the Chancellor's Mansion House speech next month. Mr Brown, who has already won plaudits from the Square Mile for surrendering control over interest rates to the Bank of England, has slain another sacred cow.

Only last year the formal dress

for this occasion was changed from white tie to black. Mr Brown

intends to relax the code even further.

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Chiara Mastroianni, daughter of the late Marcello Mastroianni, at the screening of Johnny Depp's *The Bratz* at Cannes. Reports page 7; reviews, page 19

Cook denies single currency rumours

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, today squashed speculation in financial markets about Britain joining a European single currency at an early stage.

In an interview with *The Times*, he says this remains "unlikely" before the next election and claims that the decision has not been affected by the Government's move to transfer responsibility for setting interest rates to the Bank of England. He says the decision was purely about interest rate policy in Britain. — Page 20

The Times' overseas

ASIA S 40; Belgium B Frs 100; Canada

Cdn 12; France F 100; Germany DM 4.50; Ireland

Irl 1.50; Italy L 100; Japan Y 100; Luxembourg

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BUT WITHOUT ALL THE STRAIGHT LINES.

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Lottery shake-up seeks to abolish giant profits

Arthur Leathley on plans by Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, to switch funds to education and health

RADICAL changes to the running of the National Lottery will be introduced by the new Government as ministers act to curb profits for the operator.

The lottery regulator's current dual role in awarding the next lottery contract, and checking that the national draw is properly run, will be abolished.

Chris Smith, the National Heritage Secretary, is also drawing up plans to prevent the company awarded the next contract from making profits out of the £4 billion a year business.

New legislation to be announced on Wednesday will also ensure that two separate regulators will in

future be involved in the separate functions of awarding the lucrative contract and checking that it is being run in the best interest of the public.

The moves, to be unveiled in the Queen's Speech, are in response to public criticism of Peter Davis, the lottery regulator, who was accused of being too closely involved with one of the companies behind Camelot, the lottery operator.

Mr Davis accepted hospitality from GTech, an American company that led the Camelot bid for the contract, and he was forced to

defend himself against claims that the hospitality had influenced his decision to award the contract.

A lottery bill to be introduced in the autumn will ensure that the contract goes to a non-profit organisation. Extra funds will be channelled into additional educational and health-service projects as the Government curbs the amount of money available as profit.

Labour insists that the new money, expected to be £1 billion over five years, will not reduce the amount currently paid to sport, the arts, heritage projects and chari-

ties. The position of Mr Davis himself is also in doubt as senior Labour figures have voiced concerns over his past failure to insist that Camelot gained smaller profits from the venture.

Although Camelot insists that its profits represent less than one per cent of turnover, Mr Smith believes that all money should go to good causes and running costs.

The lottery will not come under the windfall tax proposed by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, on excessive profits of some companies. Senior Labour figures

made clear that Camelot did not come under the privatised companies intended to be hit by the one-off tax.

Labour also wants to ensure a quick decision on the Greenwich Millennium Exhibition and would "take tough" with British Telecom over the plans for the information superhighway promised in return for a faster entry into the entertainment market.

Mr Smith said yesterday that the next lottery contract, due for renewal in four years, will not allow profits to be made out.

"Once the initial franchise comes to an end in about three or four years, we can go for a non-profit organisation, so that every single penny that we can get goes either to prizes or to good causes rather than into the pockets of the people who are running it."

"What I am concerned about is to make sure that the way in which the lottery is being regulated is indeed good and tough on behalf of the people who play the lottery."

When Camelot was awarded its seven-year contract, it forecast that

it would not make a profit for at least three years. In the event, the company recovered start-up costs within six months.

In 1995 it earned a pre-tax profit of £10.8 million. In 1996, its first full year, it had pre-tax profits of £7.5 million on turnover of £5.2 billion. In the first six months of the current year, profits were £20.8 million.

Camelot's shareholders are: Cadbury Schweppes, the confectionery company; De La Rue, the security printer; ICL, the computer company; Racal Electronics; GTech Corporation, the US lottery specialist. Last year they shared a dividend of £18.4 million.

Hague takes his message to party's grass roots

By POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

WILLIAM HAGUE is to take his campaign for the Tory leadership to the party's local activists. Mr Hague, who is emerging as a popular choice as the successor to John Major, will embark next week on a tour of constituency associations in a bid to harness the support of local Conservatives. The former Welsh Secretary

William Hague has made odds-on favourite to be next leader of the Tories. The bookmaker cut his odds from 11-10 to 4-7 and offers 9-2 Kenneth Clark, 11-2 Michael Howard and Peter Lilley, 14-1 Stephen Dorrell and 16-1 John Redwood.

tary, 36, said yesterday that the Conservative Party needed a completely fresh approach to regain voter appeal.

"We are going to make a fresh start... and put behind us the disputes that have dogged the party," he said. "Riffs had to be healed," Mr Hague said, "and the Conservatives must not become a

debating society on Europe. "All areas of policy are up for review. We must be prepared to change anything and everything, except our core principles," he said.

Speaking on BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost*, Mr Hague said: "We need to bring thousands of new people in the party — people of my generation whose support we haven't tapped into in recent years and say to them: 'help us to develop our policies'."

He said the Conservatives would have to show it was "ruthlessly intolerant" of sleaze and misbehaviour in the party. "We have to get rid of the image and make clear we are as intolerant of what has become known as sleaze as anybody else in the country."

Mr Hague said that the general election reflected the volatility of voters' preferences and that they would soon become "fed up" of the Labour Government. "I dare to say we will win the next general election. Just because we have lost by a large margin doesn't mean the voters have moved away from us forever."



William Hague and his leadership rival Michael Howard were both interviewed by Sir David Frost yesterday

Another contender for the Tory leadership, Stephen Dorrell, called yesterday for a "thoroughgoing reform" of the structure of the Conservative Party.

The former Health Secretary gave warning that the party would have to change and adapt or face the prospect of further election defeats.

Speaking on LWT's *Jonathan Dimbleby* programme, Mr Dorrell admitted that the Tories had often appeared to

be nothing more than a "rabble" during the last Parliament and that this had contributed to their defeat.

It seems that the former Welsh Secretary has been given a boost by the backing of senior Tories and a Gallup poll showing he has by far the most electoral appeal of all the candidates.

Mr Hague's chances have been helped by evidence that he is likely to gain the overwhelming backing of the con-

stituency associations. They cannot vote — the franchise is limited to Tory MPs — but are consulted by their MPs.

The former Conservative Cabinet minister Lord Tebbit, writing in *The Sunday Times*, praised John Redwood, who resigned from the Government in 1995 to make his first challenge for the Tory party leadership. Lord Tebbit said: "That Mr Redwood was not on the bridge when the captain of the ship rammed it on to the

rocks. At any court of inquiry less blame must attach to the man shouting 'alter course, rocks ahead' than to those who failed to see the danger ahead or reason to alter course."

"Despite that, my whole-hearted support would go to Howard, Lilley or Redwood — whoever is elected. And I hope that if any one of these is seen to be the clearly favoured candidate the others will fall in behind before nominations close."

However, the Prime Minister has a personal commitment to the issue. He was said to be deeply moved after meeting families of the Dunblane victims last year and has invited them to a private audience in London tomorrow, the day before the Queen's Speech.

His pledge to outlaw all handguns and offer a free vote, last October followed a speech to the Tory party conference by Ann Pearson, organiser of the Snowdrop campaign. Mrs Pearson, who knew many of the 16 children who died alongside their teacher in the massacre in March last year, said yesterday: "Ordinary people are walking with a spring in their step. They feel they have been listened to. I feel quite emotional and uplifted myself this morning."

Dr Mick North, whose daughter Sophie, aged five, was among the 16 dead children, said a delegation was making arrangements for the trip. "We welcome the news that this is going to be included in the first Queen's Speech. I certainly feel it was important to deal with this straight away. I think it is a reflection of the Government's own concern."

Shooting organisations argue that a total ban would be draconian and ineffective. Mike Yardley, national spokesman for the Sportsman's Association, said compensation and the job losses would cost the taxpayer millions of pounds. He forecast the closure of many rifle clubs which depend on revenue from handgun owners.

"We seem to be seeing political correctness evolving into a new authoritarianism," he said. "This legislation is not about saying to people you can only keep guns at a club, it is about completely wiping out an historic sport and our Olympic and Commonwealth Games shooting teams, all to give the illusion that something effective has been done."

The Chancellor is considering plans which include the phasing out of advanced corporation tax changes in the rate of corporate taxation and the introduction of two rates of capital gains tax. A thorough reform of the corporate taxation is likely to prove too complicated to complete before the mini-budget.

Mr Brown hinted yesterday that BT was likely to be included alongside the privatised utilities, a move that is certain to hit the company's share price when trading begins.

Mr Brown has also expressed concern that institutional and private shareholders are not encouraged to hold shares for the long term under the current taxation system. Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, said that Mr Brown was acting "in a tearing hurry" and would cause long-term harm to Britain's economic prospects.

The windfall tax, under which privatised utilities will face a one-off tax on "excessive profits", will be the centrepiece of the Budget. The Treasury aides suggest that the money raised from the tax will be higher than the £5 billion initially forecast.

The windfall tax is also intended to fund a programme to bring long-term unemployed and the young into work.

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They grow up fast and they are living extra months. Now scientists suggest massage for older pets

Dogs are taking a little longer to have their day

By LIN JENKINS

LIFE goes by so fast. Middle age arrives before you know it. But then, the older years are lasting longer and you need someone to look after your aching bones.

This was the new image of a dog's life yesterday. Scientific endeavour has discovered that it is longer, if not harder, than we thought.

While most of Britain's 6.5 million dog owners persist in thinking that one dog year equates to seven of our own, veterinary science has abandoned the classroom method of assessing equivalent ages and revealed that so rapid is

canine development that a one-year-old dog is like a fully grown and sexually mature 18 year-old.

Your dog has reached its late teens by its first birthday and by its second it had been to university, got its degree, bought its first house and the baby is on the way," according to David Watson, a veterinary surgeon who has been researching the greying of our canine population.

Man's best friend, like its owner, is living longer and prompting the massive commercial interests in the pet industry to adapt products for

Middle age for most dogs comes at about six or seven, which equates to a human's in their mid to late 40s. A significant number of mongrels, if not their purebred pedigree cousins, now live into their teens or even early twenties.

The study found that one third of dogs were classed as "seniors" — aged seven or eight or older depending on the breed — while just 10 per cent were in the puppy and junior bands.

The oldest dog known to have lived in the United Kingdom was either the Welsh collie Taffy who died at the home of its owner, Evelyn Brown, in West Bromwich, West Midlands, at the age of 27 years and 313 days, or the black labrador Adjutant, owned by a game keeper in Boston, Lincolnshire, which died aged 27 years and three months in November 1963.

The new comparative ages are based on studies for the research arm of Pedigree Chum, in which dogs of a variety of breeds have been

subjected to whole-body scanning with tissue mass and bone mass measured through sophisticated techniques.

Britain's most popular dog, according to registrations with the Kennel Club, is the labrador which is expected to reach 12. A Great Dane is considered

old at eight and a Jack Russell terrier would not be unusual if it passed its twentieth birthday.

Mr Watson found in his study that about 14 per cent of the dog population is aged ten, as opposed to about 10 per cent in 1985. According to his new

assessment of age, they would be 66 in human terms.

The pet food manufacturers have been quick to cater for

the needs of those pensionable poodles. Pedigree Chum has

published a booklet, *The Senior Years*, to help owners

retain the youthful exuberance

in their dogs. Advice includes

massage to aid relaxation and

relieve the aches and pains

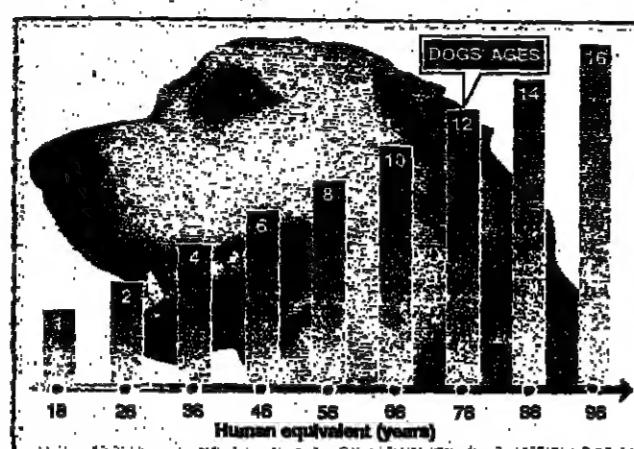
associated with ageing.

The massage programme, devised by the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy, suggests

spending up to five minutes on



Pedigree chums sit proudly at a dog show: in fact, the study shows that mongrels are more likely to be enjoying life long after some pets



Microchip plan could banish ref's mistakes

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE most vilified figure in sport, the football referee, might soon be made error-free by the use of a microchip.

Professor Nigel Allinson would like to create a "robot" by using radio waves and computers to compensate for referees' inaccuracy. Officials, he suggests, should wear a helmet similar to that of a Tornado fighter pilot so that instant replays of disputed incidents can be flashed onto the visor. The Football Association is prepared to agree to a pilot programme.

Professor Allinson, who holds the chair of electronic systems engineering at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, is to outline his plans this week in a new BBC Radio 5 series called *The 21st Century and How To Survive It*.

His conclusion will disappoint fans, however. While machines can now beat chess grandmasters, he does not foresee the referee being totally replaced. "It is important that real referees continue to make the decisions," he says.

Professor Allinson's plan will begin modestly by linking the referee's watch to a giant screen in the stadium so that fans can judge how much time is being added for injuries.

Should that be approved, football will be spared the regular sight of Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, stalking the touchline with his own stopwatch in hand.

The next step would be for the referee to have a radio microphone so that he can explain decisions to irate fans.

In the longer term, radio waves along the touchlines and between the goalposts could detect whether or not the ball, coated with a metal lining, had crossed the line.

Bosnia officer hits back over desertion charge

By DANIEL MCGRORY

AN OFFICER from the British peacekeeping force in Bosnia is demanding a government investigation into why he is facing court martial for desertion 18 months after he resigned from the Army.

Robert Ryan, 31, was the first British to order British troops to return fire during the civil war in the former Yugoslavia. He is angry that 15 armed soldiers were sent to arrest him in Bosnia and bring him back to Britain in handcuffs to stand trial.

Mr Ryan, from Biddulph in Staffordshire, describes the Army's behaviour in holding him in a military prison for a week after his arrest three months ago as "judicrous".

The Army says the former captain with the Cheshire Regiment went absent without leave in 1995 after accepting a £6,500 payment to stay on in the services. Mr Ryan insists that stress forced him to change his mind about extending his army career and that the British Embassy in Sarajevo knew he had left the Forces to set up a business as a travel agent.

He said: "I object to the word 'deserter'. I have never run away from anything. I don't know why it took 18 months for them to arrest me. Everyone knew where I was. I left an address. As far as I am concerned I left the Army legitimately and this is basically just an administrative dispute over money. It's a case of the left hand not knowing what the right is doing."

The Ministry of Defence said Mr Ryan's was a "highly unusual and sensitive case". A spokesman said: "It hinges on whether a soldier can just walk out when he wants."

The issue was whether Mr Ryan should have paid back what the Army calls a "financial retention incentive" to extend his army career before quitting. He was told after changing his mind he would have to repay the money in full, but on receiving that bit of information he went absent without leave. He made an offer to repay £745 but then just walked out.

The point isn't whether or not we knew where he was.

We expect our employees to return and discuss these problems in the proper way. We don't go to them."

Mr Ryan was mentioned in

dispatches for his gallantry in

order his troops to open fire after they were ambushed on patrol in Bosnia. He has refused to accept the Army's offer to pay his salary while he awaits the court martial as he insists he is a civilian.



Ryan: was arrested 18 months after leaving

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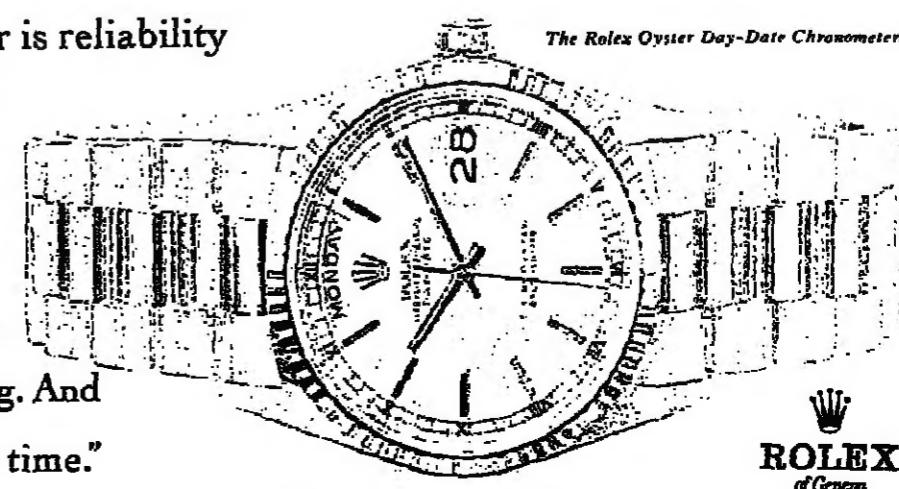
His gift as a communicator and his adaptability make David Leadbetter one of golf's most sought-after teachers.

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Pavarotti says triumphant au revoir to the Garden

LUCIANO PAVAROTTI in tremendous vocal form, said farewell yesterday to the stage on which he first appeared in 1963. Galas apart, it was the tenor's first recital at the Royal Opera House since 1979 — and it was his last before the house closes for rebuilding.

His farewell could have been a sentimental occasion, but the only hint was in his choice of Rodolfo's Act I aria from *Bohème* as the first encore. He took over the role at short notice from an ailing Giuseppe di Stefano, 34 years ago. Pavarotti, 62 this year, can still sing most of today's Rodolfo off the stage when it comes to passion, phrasing and volume.

In a long tradition, he

chose to warm up with Italian art songs. These he followed with four sacred songs, unbuttoning his tailcoat for Schubert's *Ave Maria*, the loosening-up process was over.

After Bizet's *Agnus Dei*, it was Tosca. Pavarotti gave both of Cavaradossi's arias, in turn in front of the portrait of the Madonna in Act I and using that famous head voice to magical effect when under sentence of death in the last act.

After the break, Tosca

ruled. His songs, mainly from the turn of the century, show off the voice well. Tosca settles well in the middle of the voice and more often than not allows the singer a chance for a virtuoso flourish.

JOHN HIGGINS

Being fat and spotty is a teenager's nightmare

By IAN MURRAY

MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MOST children aged 11 to 16 were reported yesterday to worry about their appearance, with concerns topped by overweight, spots and ugly teeth.

According to a poll commissioned by nurses, 86 per cent of the age group — but especially girls and poorer children — fretted about the way they looked. A third thought they were too fat and a quarter worried about their skin or teeth. Almost one in ten was anxious about being overweight.

Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, which commissioned the MORI poll to mark Nurses Day, said: "Our survey shows the insecurities that children can feel about the way they look, from teenage spots to severe eating disorders because of worries about weight."

Among the 4,295 children polled, those who said they were not well-off were more worried about their appearances than those from better-off families. Among poorer families, 41 per cent were

STUDY GIVES ALCOPOP WARNING

Evidence that "alcopops" are encouraging children to become underage drinkers has been found in a survey of more than 3,000 pupils in Wales. Dominic Kennedy writes. The study is published as the Portman Group, the drinks industry watchdog, is understood to be seeking powers to encourage boycotts by supermarket and off-licence chains of alcoholic lemonades and colas aimed at young people. The Welsh research, published today, found that

anxious about being fat, compared with 33 per cent from wealthier homes. MORI says this suggests that middle-class diets are healthier and that poorer children are either overweight or have relatives who are. Less well-off children were also more conscious of bad skin (31 per cent) and teeth (29 per cent); the corresponding percentages among richer children were 26 and 24. Boys were generally less

concerned about what they looked like, with 21 per cent saying they had no worries, compared with 8 per cent of girls.

Pupils at all-girl schools were generally more worried than average and white children tended to be more anxious than black or other ethnic minority children. Worries changed as children grew older. Only 13 per cent of 11-year-olds worried about their

skin but a year later the proportion rose to 20 per cent. It was 28 per cent for 13-year-olds and 37 per cent for 16-year-olds. Those worried about the shape of their noses doubled from 8 to 16 per cent between 11 and 16 years.

Sandra Rote, the college's community health adviser, said that school nurses increasingly found that children were asking for advice about diet. "Fat, stodgy foods are easier and cheaper for schools to serve," she said. "Packers of crisps keep better than apples, so there is a temptation not to serve things which can go off."

Help was at hand today from a giant walking carpet called Herbie and the start of National School Meals Week. The campaign to encourage more imaginative and healthier menus is organised by Arnold Fewell of the Local Education Catering Association.

He began to urge healthier eating in 1988, when he was North Yorkshire catering officer. Mr Fewell created Herbie (Healthy Eating Really Better in Every Way) and was prompted to lose three of his own 22 stone.



Beauty and the Beast is the most expensive show ever staged in the West End

Disney's £10m show opens on a high note

By CAROL MIDGLEY

THE most expensive show ever staged in the West End opens tomorrow, with more than £5 million taken in advance bookings.

Beauty and the Beast, a £10 million musical by Walt Disney, has taken three years of planning and is expected to be as successful in Britain as it has been on Broadway, where it has been running since 1994. Julie-Alannah Brighten, 25, stars as Belle alongside co-star Alasdair Harvey from *The Phantom of the Opera*, who plays the Beast. Lyrics for five of the songs are by Sir Tim Rice.

The extravaganza, with a cast of 40, a 25-piece orchestra, a backstage crew of 75 and 230 costumes, is Disney's first foray into the West End. It is estimated to be about twice as expensive as any other show staged there. Because of the scale of the production, an extension had to be built at the back of the Dominion Theatre to make room for the wardrobe department.

Currie's taste may suffer after nose job

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

REPORTS that Edwina Currie has had surgery on her nose have produced a varied crop of news stories and cartoons, mainly unsympathetic. The former Conservative MP's nose job has been discussed as an aesthetic issue and as a manifestation of vanity. Nobody seems to have listened to Mrs Currie's own explanation: that the surgery was performed mainly for medical reasons.

Mrs Currie may well have very good reasons for having the operation. Apart from having sustained a deflected septum in a minor accident, she also suffers from severe asthma, which is often associated with allergic vasomotor rhinitis, the periodic inflammation and engorgement of the nasal lining which occurs in certain people in response to contact with an allergen, be it pollen, moulds, household dust or Humphrey the cat. Vasomotor rhinitis is the cause of the runny and stuffed-up nose of the hay fever sufferer.

More than 70 per cent of patients with asthma and vasomotor rhinitis will eventually develop nasal polyps. The polyps are teardrop-

shaped, benign, tumours, which, particularly when infected or inflamed as a result of contact with an allergen, swell and ooze so that they obstruct the nasal passages, causing increased snoring at night and a snuffy, nasal voice by day.

Although benign, they may co-exist with malignancies, so it is best to obtain a specialist opinion from time to time, not only so that the expert may remove an offending polyp, but also so that he or she can check that they are not concealing anything more sinister.

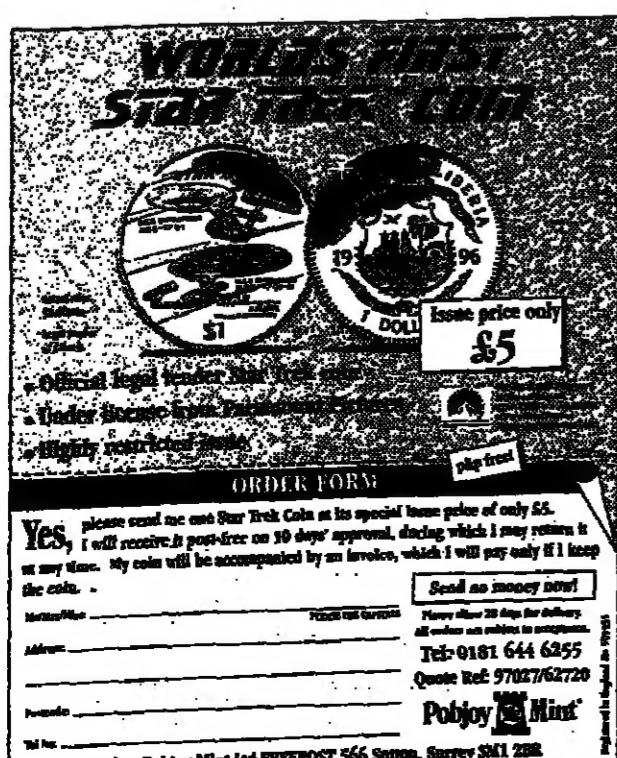
Nasal congestion, and hence the liability to polyps, is made worse if the nasal septum — the gristle and bone separating the nostrils — is deflected, causing a unilateral constriction. The nasal passages can be enlarged by a submucosal resection or by rhinoplasty — nasal septum reconstruction. Rhinoplasty — a complete remodelling of the nose — could be used to produce a more beautiful and functional nose.

After surgery Mrs Currie will be able to breathe better and snore less, and may have a different tone to her voice, but there is often a price to pay. Mrs Currie's judgment of fine food and wine may be affected. The basic tastes — saltiness, bitterness, sweetness and sourness — will still be obvious, but the subtle tastes which are the result of smell and which allow the diner to discriminate between the elusive fragrances given off by carefully constructed sauces and old wines may be lost.

Recent research has shown that even a submucosal resection, the surgical dilation of the nasal passage, may so interfere with the nerve supply to the nasal mucosa that the chance of becoming a master of wines would be lost for ever.



Currie: she said surgery was for medical reasons



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Ministers order an MoD about-turn on Gulf War syndrome

BY DANIEL MCGRORY

DEFENCE ministers will today order a new investigation into the extent of the official cover-up over "Gulf War syndrome".

The Government is promising "substantial new resources" to discover what experts in the ministry knew about the possible damaging side-effects of vaccinations and drugs given to service personnel as protection against a chemical or biological attack from Iraqi forces.

An action plan will be unveiled by John Reid, Armed Forces Minister. Labour says the matter will be a top priority for the Ministry of Defence. Ministers will urgently consider compensation. An MoD source said: "The message is there will be no hiding in corners any more and denials that nobody knew of possible harmful side-effects."

That approach, ministers say, is in stark contrast to Whitehall's original response to deny the existence of any

possible health hazards from the Gulf conflict. "What is most important is research to combat the many harmful side-effects," the source said.

The investigation is likely to embarrass the Opposition when the full extent of how Nicholas Soames, then Armed Forces Minister, was misled over the use of organophosphate pesticides during the war is brought out.

The MoD will also be told to expedite medical examinations of all those veterans complaining of ill health.

About a thousand Gulf veterans have so far been examined. Mr Reid will pledge that the findings from the new research will be made public.

A series of research programmes have already been launched to compare the health of thousands of Gulf War veterans with military personnel not involved in the 1991 conflict. Former and serving troops are being enticed to fill in complex questionnaires

to assist the research with the offer of entry into a £1,000 draw. Such incentives might now be increased.

Tony Flint, a spokesman for the Gulf War Veterans and Families' Association, welcomed the move last night. "This is the best bit of news we have heard for four years. We are feeling very hopeful now we are getting the recognition we wanted. Until now the Ministry of Defence and the Government treated us as if we were hypochondriacs," he said. "We hope the new research will continue where the Americans left off."

Richard Barr, a solicitor working to coordinate the investigations, said: "It is wonderful news. It represents a complete about-turn in governmental attitude." In the new spirit of openness, Mr Barr said he hoped the Government might reveal the names of some of the vaccines used to inoculate soldiers going to the Gulf.



From a long family line: Martha delighted staff at the Animal Line sanctuary with her brood of 27 ducklings, including three adoptions

Martha the motherly mallard waddles into record books

ONE by one they trooped into the wildlife sanctuary behind their mother - 24 ducklings in a long, wavy line. But not content with coping with possibly the biggest brood on record, Martha the mallard has adopted three more. Now mother and her family of 27 are the

pride of staff at the Animal Line sanctuary near East Grinstead in West Sussex. The story began when Martha, a former resident of the sanctuary, walked through the gate last week with her day-old ducklings. They were put into an infrared treatment unit, next door to three

other day-old mallard ducklings which had been abandoned at birth. The orphans' cries were heard by Martha, who broke down the thin dividing wall between and adopted them. Peter Wakeham, the owner of the sanctuary, said yesterday: "It's the biggest brood I have ever known.

How on earth she managed to sit on all those eggs, turning them and keeping them at the right temperature, is beyond me. It must have been like sitting on a pyramid. She is a brilliant mother - to her own ducklings and those she has adopted."

Customs 'spy' to join Moscow's crime fighters

BY STEWART TENDER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR Customs investigator is being sent to Moscow to combat the spread of the Russian mafia into Britain and to curb drug smuggling from the former Soviet Union.

The officer will be the first member of a British law enforcement organisation to work full-time in Russia. He may eventually be joined by other police and Customs officers to form a special cell linking Russian police forces with London.

The Customs man, who is not being named for security reasons, will have the status of a middle-ranking diplomat. He will be based at the British Embassy in Moscow where a small staff, aged 40, is the senior investigating officer currently working in the North-East. He was formerly a drugs liaison officer in Bolivia, working with its police against the cocaine cartels.

He will take up his post in the summer after his working brief has been agreed with the Russians and he has completed a Russian language course. In Moscow, he will join a growing band of foreign investigators, including officers from the FBI and the German security organisation, BKA. There are 50 British Customs

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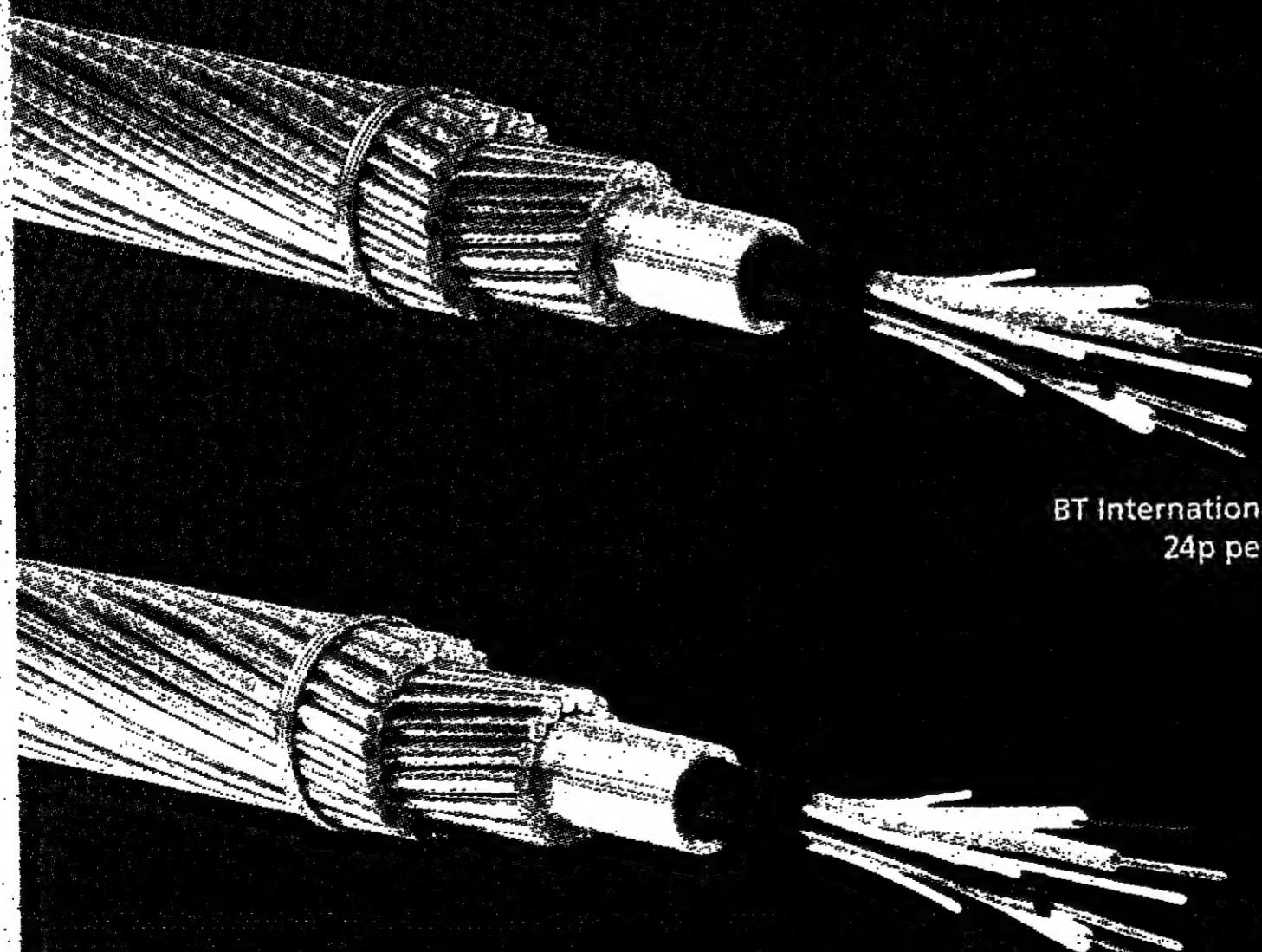
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Convicted bomber in Sinn Fein office bid

By NICHOLAS WATTS
AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

SINN FEIN has appointed a convicted IRA bomber to set up offices at the House of Commons for the party's two MPs.

Siobhan O'Hanlon, who has served a jail term for explosives offences, opened discussions with officials at the Commons after Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness won Belfast West and Mid Ulster respectively at the general election. On Saturday *The Times* disclosed that Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness want to exploit every facility at Westminster short of taking their seats in a softening of the party's traditional abstentionist policy.

Last week Ms O'Hanlon, a leading member of Sinn Fein, wrote in the Commons account setting out the party's demands that the MPs have offices and use of the Commons library and postal service. Mr Adams has called Sinn Fein's policy "active abstentionism" because he and Mr McGuinness will still refuse to take the oath of allegiance to the Queen.

Sinn Fein is likely to experience difficulties with its plans because the Liberal Democrats who are in charge of allocating offices to the smaller parties, said that they would not make any effort to help. The Government has dismissed the plans as "playing games with democracy". Conservative MPs are determined to prevent the move.

David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionists, said yesterday that he would consult other parties and would be "very surprised if something isn't done about this".

More than 1,000 mourners attended the funeral of a Roman Catholic man who was kicked to death in Portadown two weeks ago. Five men were remanded in custody yesterday at Lurgan, Co Armagh, charged with murdering Robert Hamill. A sixth man was charged later.

Leading article, page 20



Squadron Leaders Cedric Hughes, left, Tony Cowan, centre, and Bill Purchase will fly up to 500 miles a day in the two RAF Chipmunks, shown practising yesterday

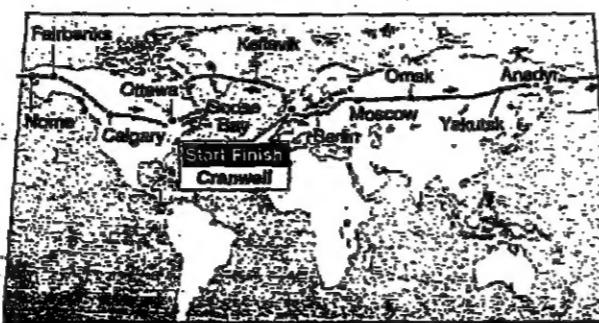
Chipmunks to cross Siberia in quest for new air route

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ONLY seven years ago the sight of two RAF aircraft flying over Moscow would have heralded the start of a third world war. Now three RAE pilots are to take part in the first military expeditionary flight across the former Soviet Union at the invitation of the Russian Air Force.

The goodwill mission, codenamed Exercise Northern Venture, is the first such flight by any foreign air force since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1991. One of its aims will be to establish an air route across Russia for business and private aircraft.

Squadron Leaders Tony Cowan, 51, Cedric Hughes, 50, and Bill Purchase, 55, have permission to fly over Russia and land in remote regions east of the Ural Mountains in two single-seat Chipmunk turbo-prop aircraft. It is hoped that a navigator from the Russian Air Force will fly with them to assist in landing at 15 airfields within the country.



The flight, supported by an Islander aircraft carrying the third pilot with extra fuel and supplies, will be part of a six-week trip around the world. It is due to begin from London City Airport on May 20.

Squadron Leader Cowan, who will lead the expedition, said that some of the airfields east of the Urals were so remote that it was unclear what the facilities would be like. However, the Chipmunk, which was the trainer aircraft for the RAF, Royal Navy and Army for 50 years until it ended its service in March this year, can fly on four-star

petrol as well as aviation gasoline.

Squadron Leader Cowan, who is flying in Russia, said that the unknowns for Westerners is flying in Russia. It was closed to us from 1918 until the Berlin Wall came down. The scale of the country — 5,000 miles across, with ten time zones — will be difficult to grasp."

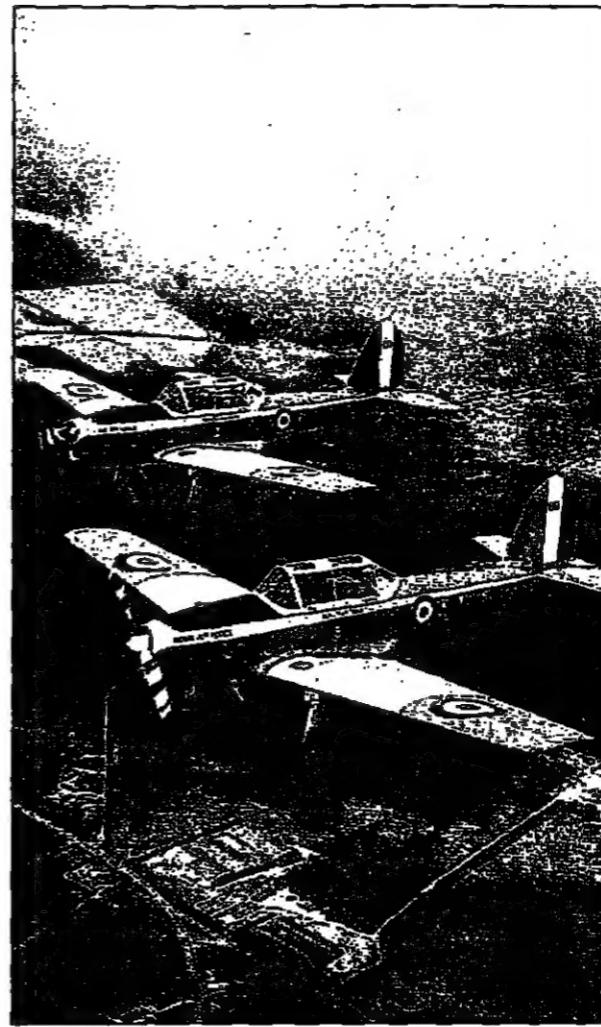
From Moscow, the two modified Havilland Chipmunks, bearing RAF markings, will head east, following the line of the Trans-Siberian

railway, towards the Bering Strait, a distance of more than 4,000 miles. East of the Urals, the expeditionary flight will cross Siberia; a similar trip planned last year had to be abandoned because of forest fires there.

The Chipmunks have been equipped with satellite-linked navigation equipment and all three men have been trained in survival skills because much of the land east of the Urals is swamp.

Squadron Leader Cowan hopes to fly the 145-horsepower Chipmunks up to 500 miles a day, cruising at about 100 knots at an altitude of 5,000ft. The round trip will be about 14,000 miles with 45 stops and has been divided into four sections: European, Russian, North American and North Atlantic. The trip is costing about £75,000, which is being met by sponsors including British Aerospace, British Telecom and GEC.

The Times will follow the progress of Exercise Northern Venture in further reports.



Stars raise cash for soccer fight

More than £500,000 is expected to have been raised from a pop concert held on Saturday to fund legal action on behalf of the 96 people crushed to death at Hillsborough football ground. Entertainers who waived their fees before an audience of 34,000 at Liverpool's Anfield ground included the Manic Street Preachers and the comedian Frank Skinner. Victims' families are campaigning for fresh inquests. They blame police error for the 1989 disaster.

Death in fire

A woman died after a fire swept through her home in Tamworth, Staffordshire. All four daughters of Deborah Simons, 39, who was divorced, were out at the time. Firefighters pulled her out of a bedroom and tried to resuscitate her but she was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital.

'Spy' inquest

An inquest opens today into the deaths in 1992 in California of Ian Spiro, who said that he worked for the intelligence services, and his family. Evidence about the deaths of Mr Spiro, 46, and his wife and three children will be disclosed to the West Cumbria Coroners at Whitehaven.

Killer recaptured

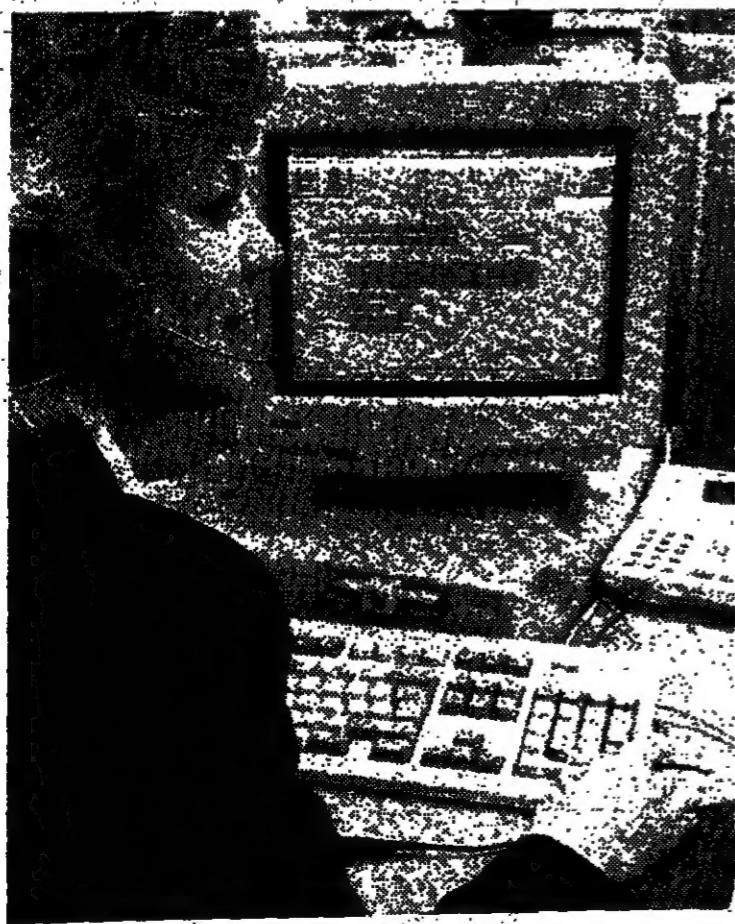
A murderer who escaped from Wellingborough jail, in Northamptonshire, last month was recaptured as he returned to the area where he killed his grandmother in 1984. Frank Winsor-Smith was stopped in St Albans after a chase involving police cars and a helicopter.

Cheese with love

A Hebridean cheese, which was banned in Italy in the late 1960s because it was said to have aphrodisiac qualities, is to be produced again. The creamy cheese on Islay, which was closed last year, is to be reopened in July or August and will once more make Dunlop cheese.

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UN sharpens its axe in shake-up for 21st century

THE United Nations is preparing a radical restructuring of its humanitarian and development functions as part of a sweeping reform plan intended to ready the organisation for the next century.

Officials say that plans are being made to consolidate disparate UN agencies and departments in a move that threatens some of largest fiefdoms of the organisation's system. The UN Development Programme, the UN Fund for Population Activities, the UN Children's Fund and the three economic departments of the UN Secretariat are to be brought together in what has been tentatively titled the Development Operations Group or 'Dog'.

The Department of Humanitarian Affairs at UN headquarters in New York, which was created at Britain's

The biggest fiefdoms of the United Nations are under threat from a move to merge its scattered agencies, James Bone writes from New York

insistence after the exodus of the Iraqi Kurds and the floods in Bangladesh in 1991, will be wrapped into the Geneva-based UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General, is under pressure to revamp the organisation to win back the whole-hearted support of the United States, which owes more than \$1 billion (620 million) in dues to the world body.

The UN chief has promised to unveil his blueprint for reform in July and has appointed Maurice

Strong, a Canadian businessman and UN expert, to prepare the report. The first details of the planned restructuring began to seep out at UN headquarters, as agency heads and other senior officials gathered in New York last week to discuss the changes.

Questions still remain, however, about the place of the World Food Programme, whose work is three-quarters humanitarian relief and one-quarter development. Also uncertain is how the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation will fit into

the new structure. The Departments of Political Affairs and Peacekeeping Operations at UN headquarters are expected to remain separate, although they will work more closely together. The cumbersome Department of Public Information has already been renamed the Office for Communications and Media Services and a committee set up to reorient its work.

Mr Annan has pledged to cut 1,000 posts by attrition from the 10,000-strong bureaucracy of the UN Secretariat by the end of the century, saving tens of millions of dollars a year. But there is growing concern about the ageing of the UN staff, which has been caused by a long-running hiring freeze. The average age of the permanent UN staff is now 48 and about half are due to

retire over the next ten years. Only 5 per cent of staff in the UN Secretariat are under 35.

Germany, meanwhile, is pushing for the creation of a new World Environment Organisation and is offering office space in Bonn which is to be vacated when the German Government moves to Berlin. The proposed body would take over from the troubled UN Environment Programme, which is based in Nairobi, and the Commission for Sustainable Development created after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, is expected to make his country's pitch for the new organisation at an environmental summit scheduled to take place at UN headquarters at the end of next month.



Emergency relief teams search wreckage yesterday in an Iranian village flattened by Saturday's earthquake.

Rescuers in Iran race to reach areas hit by quake

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AN INTERNATIONAL relief operation was gathering momentum last night to help Iran to cope with the aftermath of an earthquake that devastated a remote, mountainous area in the east of the country, killing at least 2,400 people and injuring thousands more.

Aid workers expected the toll to rise when rescue workers reached areas cut off by landslides and piles of rubble. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies appealed in Geneva for about £5 million to assist 60,000 survivors for the next four months in the area bordering Afghanistan.

Iranian television showed mass destruction in the stricken zone, with dazed children and weeping infants wandering

aimlessly through shattered streets lined with bodies covered in sheets. Some of the victims were crushed to death, others buried alive under the rubble of mudbrick houses. Villagers tore at the rubble with spades and even with bare hands to free trapped victims.

Hospital wards overflowed with victims, with doctors treating many in corridors. Most of the victims were women and children who were either at home or in school when the earthquake, measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale, struck on Saturday shortly after midday, a time when many men were out working in the fields.

Despite the impressive efforts of its own experienced disaster relief teams, Tehran lost little time in brushing aside its political differences with the West to appeal for help when the scale of the tragedy made clear it could not cope alone.

Two previous quakes this year had already depleted emergency resources. France was the first to help, dispatching a plane loaded with emergency supplies. Washington was expected to offer aid

through international organisations. Germany, ignoring a recent diplomatic row with Tehran over accusations that the Iranian leadership ordered the murder of dissidents in Berlin, said it was prepared to send emergency aid.

Kuwait made a similar announcement and the Saudi-based Organisation of the Islamic Conference appealed to its 52 member states to extend all forms of urgent humanitarian assistance.

A British humanitarian org-

anisation, International Rescue Corps, was last night refused visas by the Iranian Embassy in London to visit the quake site.

Hamid Reza Ghaffarzadeh, a UN Development Programme official who played a similar role in last year's earthquake in Iran, left his office in Tehran to link up with staff from the World Food Programme and UN High Commissioner for Refugees based in Mashhad before travelling onward.

"The area is completely cut

off," said Iftekhar Ali, a UN spokesman in Tehran. "The communications are down. No one has been able to contact us. There is a great distance to be covered. The flights are only up to Mashhad and there is a seven-hour trip beyond that."

Tens of thousands were left homeless by the quake, whose impact centred on an arid, rural area around the town of Qayen in Khorasan province, 90 miles west of the Afghan border. The Iranian Red Crescent said about 200 villages

had been severely damaged or flattened across a 60-mile swath of territory between the towns of Qayen and Birjand, with 10,000 homes destroyed. Water supplies and power lines were also cut.

Qayen's Governor said his region needed doctors, blood, ambulances, food, heavy earth-moving equipment and devices to locate possible survivors.

□ Kabul: The quake toppled a hospital wall for the western Afghan city of Herat, crushing five people to death. (Reuters)

Frantic villagers battle to save lives

FROM STEVEN SWINDLEES IN QAYEN, IRAN

THE wailing and sobbing of grieving relatives echoed through several Iranian villages yesterday as they watched the mangled bodies of family members being pulled from the rubble caused by the country's huge earthquake.

The villagers were still dazed a day after the quake, which measured 7.1 on the Richter scale, hit eastern Iran. During a six-hour tour of this area close to Afghanistan, I did not see any survivors brought out from the rubble in three villages where cranes were lifting heavy debris.

"I have lost my daughter," screamed one woman in her fifties, raising her arms in despair as she roamed the dusty, rubble-strewn streets of Hadjabad. Her daughter had been engaged to be married, relatives said.

In the nearby village of Abiz, a man in his late forties stood next to the bodies of his sons, aged four and eight, wrapped in shrouds with only their battered faces showing. The bodies were laid on what used to be the front door of their home. "I was away from the house working. My children were alone," he cried.

A despondent seven-year-old boy watched as relatives took his mother's body from their flattened home. A rescue worker, trying to comfort him, gave him biscuits. The boy was too stunned to react. "There aren't enough women left to clean the dead women," said one cleric, referring to the Islamic rite that precedes the burial ceremony. He said women from nearby areas were being brought in to perform the ritual.

Hossein Maldar, 20, stood atop his flattened brick house in Eshbidan, 30 miles southeast of Qayen, crying over the loss of his 10-year-old sister and 16-year-old brother. His clothes were covered in dust.

People in Qayen said about 100 houses and other buildings were damaged in the town, but there were no signs of major damage. (Reuters)

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Gold from Holocaust victims 'laundered right up to the closing stages of war'



Himmler, head of the SS, dealt directly with the secret numbered account

Pretoria launches attack on wave of 'Afro-pessimism'

THE South African Government has brought out a pamphlet reviewing the Government's achievements at mid-term — six months late.

Questions have been raised about the use of public money to print and distribute the flagrantly self-praising pamphlet. The document is part of a government strategy to deal with "Afro-pessimism", a mood which operates partly both abroad and among South Africa's whites.

In the eyes of Afro-pessimists, the whole Continent is doomed to an unending cycle of corruption, authoritarianism, famine and war. South Africa's African National Congress-led Government has run hard into this mood as it struggles to encourage its own business, community and international investors. Without their confidence, it cannot hope to secure the economic growth it needs to overcome the mountainous unemployment which lies at the root of most of the country's problems. But more fundamentally still, South Africa is now feeling and asserting its continental leadership.

This position is no longer really contested: the other large African countries — Sudan, Algeria, Zaire and Nigeria — are all at war or in chaos and none can begin to compete either with South Africa's economic strength or the positive international image President Mandela has given his country.

As continental leaders, South Africa's elite sees Afro-pessimism and the assumptions that surround it as an affront to their self-respect and virtually a suggestion that things would have been better if the continent had stayed under white-minority rule. They want to assert that Africans can govern their

South Africa is seeking to boost the morale of its white community, writes R.W. Johnson from Johannesburg

selves democratically and well, that they are not innately backward, or violent, and that their economies can grow. This is why Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, has been giving speeches in America in which he talks of "an African Renaissance" and it is also the reason why he has worked so closely with the United States in trying to bring a solution to the problems of Zaire. It is not just that Mr Mbeki wants to show Washington that South Africa can be a reliable ally, but he also fears that should Zaire explode into further and chaotic civil war, it would confirm Afro-pessimists in their views, making all that South Africa wants to achieve more difficult.

There is, however, a problem. Crime remains high and in recent weeks, despite official attempts to show that crime is falling, public morale about the problem has sunk to new depths, particularly in Johannesburg. Much of the crime is violent and continues to produce waves of white emigrants either to other parts of the country or abroad.

It is difficult to see how the Government can maintain local investment confidence unless it gets on top of the crime wave. The confidence of the white community counts, not only because foreign businessmen tend to mix with them, but also because most foreigners will not invest if the locals are reluctant to do so.

Zaire rebels resume march on Kinshasa

FROM REUTER IN LUBUMBASHI

REBELS in Zaire yesterday said they had abandoned a pledge to South Africa's President Mandela and resumed their advance towards the capital, Kinshasa.

Bizima Karaha, the rebel "Foreign Minister", also told a news conference in Lubumbashi that the rebels would storm Kinshasa if Archbishop Laurent Monsengwo accepted his election as Speaker of the Zaire parliament.

The archbishop was appointed on Saturday in the hope that he could mediate a peace deal between President Mobutu and the rebels.

Mr Karaha said that, over

the past few days, Zairean troops backed by the Angolan rebel group, Unita, and former Rwandan troops had attacked rebel positions near the town of Kenge, 125 miles east of Kinshasa, but had been driven back.

Mr Karaha used the talks to reinforce his troops, bring in Unita elements, former Rwandan troops, and consolidate his position in Kinshasa, he said.

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Swiss bank official had direct contact with Himmler's office

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

THE SS maintained a secret numbered account in a leading Swiss bank to launder money obtained from gold and jewellery plundered from concentration camp victims, and even received credit facilities, a Swiss newspaper reported yesterday.

The *SonntagsZeitung* said former East German documents held in the German Federal Archive showed that Crédit Suisse, now Switzerland's second largest bank, dealt directly with the SS through two parallel operations. The archives show that some transactions took place in the final stages of the Second World War, when the role of Hitler's elite unit in carrying out the genocide of millions of Jews, Gypsies and opponents was more widely known. It also claimed that the bank knew who it was dealing with.

In one operation, Deutsche Wirtschaftsbetrieb (DWB), a front company set up by the SS, received credit facilities from Crédit Suisse. DWB organised the revaluation of the belongings of Holocaust victims, including gold teeth and other valuables, through the German central bank. One document shows that DWB

received a payment of SwFr50,000 from Crédit Suisse to its account at the Deutsche Bank in Berlin on February 14, 1945, not long before the end of the war. The payment was listed as the reimbursement of a cash advance account.

The newspaper also revealed that the SS held a secret account at Crédit Suisse, identified by a number, 54 941. Power of attorney was held by Leo Volk, a senior SS officer who handled financial affairs in Hitler's elite unit.

The *SonntagsZeitung* named a bank employee who sometimes had direct contact with the office of Heinrich Himmler, head of the SS, to deal with the secret account.

When the Allies sought to freeze Nazi assets, the SS tried to conceal the ownership of the account in 1945 by transferring the power of attorney to Alfred Kurzmeier, a director of Deutsche Bank, who also held a Swiss passport. He is known to have made frequent trips to Switzerland during the Second World War.

Crédit Suisse was unavailable for comment last night. But in a first reaction to *SonntagsZeitung*, the bank



said the affair was regrettable and it would add the new evidence to internal investigations. Swiss politicians reacted with shock to the news, which establishes that a Swiss bank knowingly dealt with Nazi commanders rather than merely with individuals subsequently linked to the SS. In February, Crédit Suisse paid about SwFr33 million (£13.5 million) to a humanitarian fund to compensate Holocaust victims. The head of the fund gave a warning this weekend that first payments, due this summer, were likely to be delayed because of disagreements over the management board.

The newspaper's report puts further pressure on Swiss bankers, who have been obliged since last year to search through their accounts for millions of dollars of unclaimed assets belonging to Holocaust victims or their heirs, alleged to be hidden since the war.

So far, most of the evidence of financial dealings with the Nazis have been based on Allied intelligence reports held in American archives or on Swiss material. But the latest revelations give an indication of how much more evidence may be provided by the archives of other European countries, including Germany, which have not received the same close scrutiny.

A preliminary report by the United States Government on the Nazi gold transactions last week underlined the way that the Swiss National Bank and other neutral countries bought bullion from the Germans during the Second World War. The *Elzestra* report accused them of helping to finance Nazi Germany's war effort and apparently prolonging the length of the war. But it contained few references to the role of private banks.



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Christians flock to hear Pope call for Lebanon's liberty

BY NICHOLAS BLANDFORD IN BEIRUT AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE POPE yesterday celebrated Mass in Beirut before thousands of Lebanon's Christians. He later called for the country's "total independence, complete sovereignty and unambiguous freedom", although he stopped short of saying that Syrian and Israeli forces should withdraw.

More than 300,000 Christians — about 10 per cent of the country's population — attended the outdoor seafaring service, waving the yellow-and-white flags of the Vatican in the sweltering mid-morning heat.

It was the Pope's first visit to the Middle East and his theme from arriving at Beirut airport on Saturday was reconciliation between the Christian and Muslim communities.

"Lebanon ... has shown that people can respect the rights of every individual to religious freedom; that all are united in love for this homeland," he said. He arrived to

take the Mass from the papal embassy in the mountain village of Harissa, 20 miles north of Beirut. His "Popemobile" was strewed with rose petals and rice from the 100,000 Christians lining the route.

On Saturday night, the Pope

addressed thousands of Lebanon's young people in a ceremony at the Notre Dame Cathedral in Harissa that had all the raucous atmosphere of a football match.

Frequently interrupted by the chanting and singing of *El-baba*, as he is known in Lebanon, he told the gathering to bridge the communal divide. "You are the treasure of Lebanon ... destroy the barricades, build new bridges of communication among each other," he urged.

The arrival of the Pope had been eagerly anticipated by the Christians of Lebanon, the most important Christian community in the region, who hoped his visit would bolster their waning influence.

Although the Pope was welcomed by all religious communities, his visit has emphasised the country's sectarian tension. The Christian community traditionally dominated Lebanese politics, but



The Pope prays with two Lebanese priests



About 300,000 people attend Mass in Beirut yesterday. The Pope urged reconciliation between Christians and Muslims during his visit

the 1975-1990 civil war eroded their power base, and today the Christians consider themselves increasingly marginalised from the political arena.

With most of the Christian hierarchy now in self-imposed exile in Paris, leadership has fallen to the Maronite Patriarch, Cardinal Nasrallah

Boulos Sfeir, the spiritual leader of the Maronites, Lebanon's largest Christian sect.

Cardinal Sfeir has frequently accused the Government of

the Sunni Muslim Prime Minister, Rafik Hariri, of sectarian bias, and has consistently attacked the Syrian presence in Lebanon. Neighbouring Syria

has 35,000 troops in the country and Damascus retains a virtual hegemony over the

Lebanese Government.

Christian complaints have highlighted the plight of the former leader of the Christian Lebanese forces militia, Samir Geagea, who is serving two life sentences in prison. The

Christian opposition has objected to Mr Geagea's incarceration, noting that he was the only warlord from the 16-year conflict to have been put on trial.

Before his trip, the Pope was inundated with appeals from Mr Geagea's supporters to recognise his predicament and

demand the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon. But the Pope limited his comments to a 200-page document that he wrote on Lebanon's future, in which he called for Lebanon's full independence without referring by name to Syria or Israel, which occupies the country's south.

Day of mourning highlights split among Israelis

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

SOMBRE weekend ceremonies to honour the 18,538 Israeli soldiers killed in the 49 years since the foundation of the state highlighted the growing divisions between secular and ultra-Orthodox Jews, many of whom do not serve in the armed forces.

The worst incident occurred in Jerusalem when ultra-Orthodox demonstrators hurled stones at a policeman standing to attention as air raid sirens wailed to mark the beginning of Memorial Day during which tens of thousands of Israelis visit military graves. It is customary for the country to come to a complete halt as the sirens sound. The policeman, who was injured, was one of a large squad on duty in Jerusalem's Bar-Ilan Street, where the ultra-Orthodox or Haredic Jews want closed during the sabbath. The protesters called the mourning policeman "Nazis" and taunted them with the cry: "Next Memorial Day we will mourn you as well".

In an interview to mark Memorial Day, Amnon Shahak, the Chief of Staff,

underlined the splits dividing Israeli society by claiming that these caused him more concern than the growing arsenal of Syrian long-range missiles in the process of being equipped with VX nerve gas.

Writing in *The Jerusalem Post*, Yosef Lapid, a leading journalist and Holocaust survivor, was scathing about the increasing influence of the ultra-Orthodox Jews who since last year's election have been working behind the scenes to impose their narrow views on many aspects of Israeli life.

"Israeli society is disappearing into the black hole of Haredism [ultra-Orthodox].

Tens of thousands of young

people are squeezed into

Yeshivot [seminaries run by

the ultra-Orthodox] evading

IDF [Israeli Defence Force]

service, avoiding productive

work and study that is of any

benefit to a modern country."

Mr Lapid added that fewer and fewer non-religious Jews "who do army service and work for a living are supporting more and more idlers who are amassing political power."

Saddam 'spies' face deportation from US

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A GROUP of Iraqis who worked with the CIA to try to overthrow President Saddam Hussein are in jail in California facing deportation, possibly back to Iraq as double agents.

The embittered 25 men and one woman are accused by other refugees of working undercover for Saddam and of helping him to crush the CIA-backed Opposition when his forces stormed into Kurdish sanctuaries in northern Iraq last August. The speed of Saddam's success raised strong suspicions that his enemies had been heavily penetrated by his spies.

Up to 6,000 Iraqi refugees who fled from the disaster have been promised political asylum by United States authorities after a journey to Turkey and then to Guam, an American island in the Pacific, before reaching the mainland. Those in custody have been identified as national security risks, based on interviews with FBI agents, according to the Justice Department in Washington. Their cases will now be heard by an immigration judge.

All deny being agents for

Saddam and say they are

victims of jealousies between

two opposition groups.

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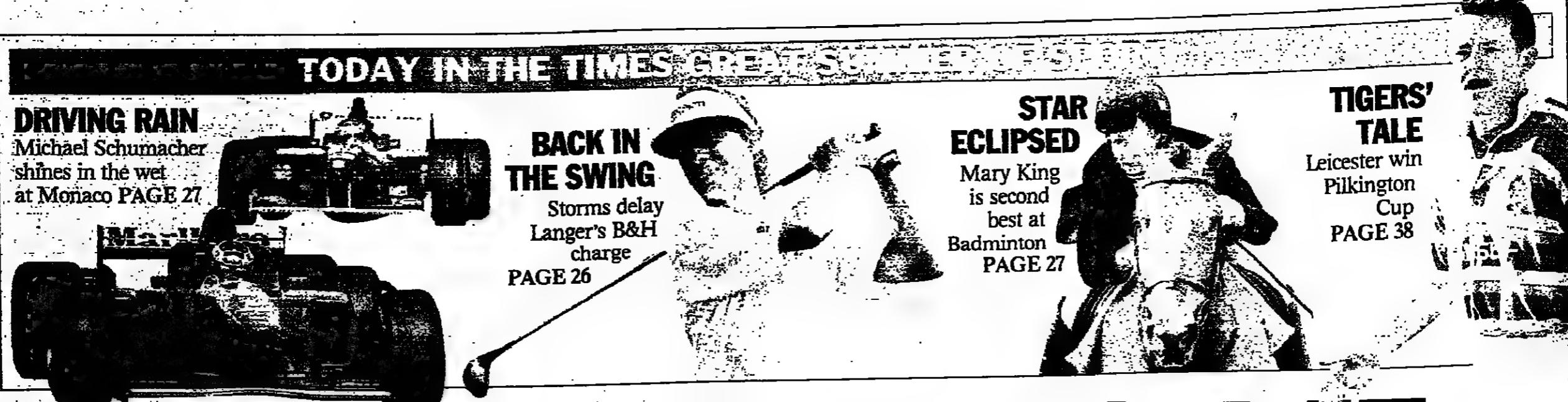
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MAY 12 1997

COVENTRY ESCAPE AGAIN ON BAGGAGE COUNT



Fallen idol: Juninho, the Brazilian whose goal briefly gave Middlesbrough hope, sits alone after the draw at Elland Road sent his club down and out of the Premiership. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Middlesbrough down in flames

Leeds United 1
Middlesbrough 1
By OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

BRYAN ROBSON's bold attempt to transplant the exotic skills of Brazil and Italy to Teesside ended in failure and the utter despair of relegation on the barren land of Elland Road yesterday. A series of wildly expensive signings once acclaimed as the work of a visionary now stand condemned as an act of grand footballing folly.

Sent down, in the end, by the three points in the Premier League docked them when they failed to fulfil their fixture against Blackburn Rovers on December 21, Middlesbrough failed to secure the win they needed.

While goals from Dion Dublin and Paul Williams at White Hart

Lane saved Coventry City for the tenth time on the final day and sent down Sunderland, who lost 1-0 at Wimbledon, Middlesbrough could only manage a deflected shot from Juninho to counter Brian Deane's header second-half goal. It was not enough. It was a bleak day for the North East and the revival of football in the region.

The FA Cup Final against Chelsea at Wembley next Saturday will provide a measure of consolation, although their players will have to be dragged off the floor. But their relegation may rob the Premiership of Juninho, who has illuminated this season like a

first-team players and get their thoughts on the position of the club now," he said.

Emerson, who caused so much agonising earlier in the season with his trysts to Brazil, was substituted midway through the second half yesterday and stalked off straight down the tunnel, a symptom of everything that was wrong with the club.

Ravanelli, who scored 31 goals amid the mediocrity but was criticised by team-mates for returning to Italy for treatment on his strained back, was not fit. At the end, Juninho fell to the floor and would not be consoled.

The only vestige of hope now for them may be a High Court appeal against the Premier League's three-point penalty. "At the end of the day," Steve Gibson, the Middlesbrough chairman, said, "we have been relegated because of a decision by grey men in grey suits

BOTTOM OF TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pla
Southampton	38	10	11	17	50	55	41
Coventry	38	9	14	15	38	54	41
Sunderland	38	10	10	18	36	53	39
Middlesbrough	38	10	12	16	31	51	39
Nottingham Forest	38	6	16	16	51	50	34

Middlesbrough deducted three points

forged the best early chance when Liley wrestled aside Blackmore on the edge of the Middlesbrough area. His shot cannoned up off the body of Roberts and left him, fleetingly, with an open goal but his weak shot was cleared.

At the other end, Stamp had a fierce shot tipped over the bar by Martyn and then Juninho produced the game's best piece of skill by controlling an awkward ball from Pearson on the half-way line and slipping it past Halle.

Two minutes before the interval, Juninho played another perfectly weighted pass to Stamp who

gave his all, as usual, but so desperate has he become, so apparently lacking in confidence in the rest of his team-mates, that he began by trying to beat Leeds United on his own.

Leeds, who had not conceded a goal at home since Boxing Day,

nine minutes after half-time, Hignett, who had been paralysed by nerves, paid for the poverty of his performance when he was replaced by Kinder. Almost immediately, Juninho forged another chance for Middlesbrough when he slipped a through-ball between Leeds's two central defenders but Beck's left-foot toe-poke was saved by Martyn at the second attempt.

Kinder brought a new urgency to Middlesbrough's left flank and in the 69th minute, Robson took Emerson off, prompting his show of penance and delighted cries of "Emerson's going home".

Four minutes after that, as Middlesbrough's Premiership life ebbed away, Rush nearly sealed their fate when he pounced on Deane's nod back and fired his shot in low at Roberts. The goalkeeper saved with his legs and when the ball was played back in, Liley's tap-in was ruled offside.

There was, though, to be no reprieve for Middlesbrough. Fourteen minutes from the end, Wallace, a substitute for Rush, curled a cross in from the right which was met by Deane's head and dispatched firmly beyond Roberts.

Some Middlesbrough heads went down, but not Juninho's. Three minutes later, he cut in from the left and his right-foot shot was deflected off Bowyer and beyond Martyn. Middlesbrough mounted a furious late assault but the goal they needed would not come.

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N Martin; G Halle, D Wehrle, J Liley, A Boulton; L Bowyer, L Pearson, L Stamp; B Robson; D Liley.

MIDDLESBROUGH (4-4-1-1): B Roberts — C Fleming, N Pearson, G Festa, C Blackmore — Hignett (sub V Kinder); Stamp; P Stamp; R Masche; Emerson — Juninho — M Beck. Replaced A White.

United crowned, page 28
Coventry escape again, page 29
Sunderland relegated, page 29
Barcelona win, page 31

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Balding keeps a tight rein on Badminton

The fact that three-day eventing is not the television sport it once was is not the BBC's fault, as it set out to show on Saturday by wheeling out the sort of treatment that even the mainstays of mainstream sports would aspire to — the best part of an hour on *Grandstand*, followed by more than two hours of live, uninterrupted coverage on BBC2 of the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials. And not a princess or dashing consort in sight... well, not on horseback, anyway.

From a television point of view, the cross-country stage of a three-day event is a sporting oddity. On the one hand it combines the genuine excitement of watching rider and horse in nostril-flaring close-up with slapstick comedy



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

Hang on, Katie, hang on — oh, it's another ducking. On the other, these thrills and spills have precious little bearing on the overall outcome. That is dictated by the dressage, which the BBC could not be bothered to show and by the showjumping yesterday that many of us — no doubt — could not be bothered to watch. For those who missed it, Ian Stark and Stanwick Ghost knocked down five fences including the first, a fear of scoreboard vandalism that reduced Michael Tucker, the BBC's main commentator, to total silence.

But despite the proven importance of each gaudily-painted showjumping pole, it is the cross country that captures the imagination... and the television audiences. As the afternoon progressed and

the weather moved from foul to fair, three things impressed. The first two were technical — some excellent overhead camera work from a circling helicopter or airship, which gave a real idea of the lay-out of the course, and some ingenious parallel pictures of horses at full gallop taken from a camera mounted on some sort of swift but silent vehicle.

The third success was human. Clare Balding. The BBC has tried various ways of presenting three-day eventing

definitely give up smoking for next year." And she coped admirably with the unexpected, when Stark inexplicably left her interviewing a tree with 90 seconds to go.

In the commentary box, Tucker and his co-commentators, Lorna Clarke and Linda Green, were demonstrating a depth of knowledge that at times bordered on the comic. Clarke and Green competing to show who knew more about a particular Swedish rider. "She's a pilot." She used to be an acrobatic skier." She's the daughter of a priest. Eventually, Green moved reluctantly on... to tell us about a horse bred by Eddie Macken's wife.

Making sure that the whole thing didn't become off-puttingly incestuous were Johnnie Wetherston and Wen-

dy Sheppard, the producers, who, as well as ensuring that the camera-work remained impressive throughout, also kept editorial input under rewardingly tight control. If the commentary team had built up a particular rider particularly well or simply spouted someone showing a bit of flair, they made absolutely certain that Balding grabbed a few words with whoever it was afterwards — even if she did have to barge into the weighing-in tent to get them.

Only one thing defeated their efforts, the complete inability of the otherwise enjoyable Tucker to master the electronic time-keeping. "He's ten seconds down... come on Ian... in fact he's up, not down — we're getting overexcited." At last, a surrogate for Murray Walker.

Allen on song to steer Monarchs to victory

FOR THE second successive week the crowd at Stamford Bridge were treated to an anxious finish but yesterday it all ended happily, with the London Monarchs beating the Scottish Claymores 16-8 (Richard Wetherell writes). With just over a minute remaining, the Claymores, the defending World League champions, got the ball back, requiring a touchdown and a two-point conversion to draw level. Starting on their own 45-yard line they got as close as the Monarchs' six-yard line. Then, an incomplete pass and a penalty took them backwards before another Claymores penalty ended the game with five seconds remaining.

Clive Allen, the former England soccer striker, opened the scoring for London with the first field goal of his new career. He added another from 27 yards and a third goal in the final quarter. In stark contrast, the Claymores missed three long-range field goals.

Cambridge waltz home

BALLROOM DANCING: Cambridge won the Varsity march for the second year in succession, inflicting a convincing defeat on Oxford over all four dances — waltz, quick step, cha-cha and jive (Ruth Gledhill writes). In 24 years, Oxford have now won the Varsity match 16 times, compared to eight victories for Cambridge.

However, the Oxford B team fought back, easily defeating Cambridge over the four dances at the spacious Kew Bridge Hall on Saturday.

Some observers put the defeat of the eight-couple Oxford team down to a last-minute rule change, which rendered some of the leading Oxford dancers ineligible for the Varsity competition.

McCarron shares lead

GOLF: Scott McCarron coped with the twin handicaps of a pulled hamstring and a testing breeze to join David Duval in the lead after the third round of the BellSouth Atlanta Classic in Duluth, Georgia. McCarron produced seven birdies in a round of 66, six under par. Duval, the leader after two rounds, bogeyed the final hole for a 73, and he and McCarron stood at 11-under par 205, two strokes ahead of their fellow American, David Toms. Bill Glasson was a further three shots back, along with Nick Price, of Zimbabwe, who finished with a double bogey at the 15th and a bogey at the 17th.

Somerset depart early

BOWLS: Somerset, the defending champions, waved goodbye to their hopes of retaining the Walker Cup when they made an undignified preliminary-round exit from the national women's double rink championship. Dorset overwhelmed the holders by an unprecedented margin of 23 shots, 45-22. In another upset, Warwickshire defeated Norfolk after a tense finish, and by a single shot, 33-34.

Mason keeps her title

GYMASTICS: Lisa Mason, of Huntingdon Gym Club, retained her title for a second successive year by beating Annika Reeder, of Basildon, into second place and Gemma Cott, of Heathrow, into third at the British championships in Guildford on Saturday. Melissa Wilson, of Bristol, won the junior championship and Katy Lennox, from Leatherhead and Dorking, the 12 and 13 years age group.

Boldon sprints in

ATHLETICS: Ato Boldon of Trinidad, ran the fastest 100 metres of the year in winning a race in Modesto, California, in 9.93sec on Saturday. The time was the seventh-fastest of all time. The world record, set by Donovan Bailey, of Canada, at the Olympic Games last year, is 9.84sec. Boldon was the bronze medal-winner in the 100 and 200 metres in Atlanta.

Carmichael on target

SHOOTING: John Carmichael, of Worcestershire, yesterday won Lord Cottesloe's Cup, the top individual award at the English VIII Club meeting at Bisley where men and women fire at ranges up to 1,200 yards. Carmichael, twice a target rifle team world championship gold medal-winner, took the trophy with 399 out of 450, the lowest score in the event for many years because of the windy conditions.

China strike quickly

SWIMMING: China captured the first gold medal of the East Asian Games in Pusan, South Korea, yesterday when Zhi Yingwei won the women's 100 metres freestyle on the first day of competition. Zhi finished in a time of 56.72sec, followed by Gao Wei, also of China. Lee Bo-Eun, of South Korea, was third. China won 25 gold medals at the previous Games.

Hill installed at Palace

BASKETBALL: Crystal Palace, who were expected to announce the arrival of an experienced coach this week, have plumped instead for the virtually untried Graham Hill. At 29, Hill will become the second-youngest coach in the Budweiser League. Dan Lloyd and Mark Clark, the respective assistant coaches at London Towers and the Leopards, were expected to be the front-runners for the job.

GOLF

Langer clings to his advantage in twilight climax

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

WEATHER delays interrupted play for more than two hours in the final round of the Benson and Hedges International Open at The Oxfordshire yesterday. There was a hold-up of 40 minutes soon after play started and then a longer one in the late afternoon when an electrical storm arrived in the area.

Many golfers would have been adversely affected by the disruptions, but not Bernhard Langer as he strove to win his second event in eight days. The worse the weather, the more difficult the conditions, the better he played. He is indomitable.

After taking the Italian Open with a superb last round of 64 eight days ago, Langer moved into a two-stroke lead over Lee Westwood with seven holes remaining.

At this stage, Langer was 11 under par. Westwood was one stroke ahead of Ian Woosnam and Padraig Harrington and Eduardo Romero were two shots further back.

It is hard to describe the weather conditions. One minute the sun shone and the course was playable. The next moment, huge menacing clouds would be borne in on the strong south-westerly winds. Any semblance of brightness would disappear from the sky and soon rain would be falling in sheets.

How quickly the weather changed was demonstrated in

the ten minutes it took Ian Woosnam and Eduardo Romero to complete the 9th hole and reach the 10th tee. As they walked up to the 9th green the sky above the Chilterns to their left, looked light. The moment they walked off the green they were heading towards clouds that were darker than a raven's wing. Sure enough, just as Romero waited to drive a siren went, play was halted and they sought refuge in a tent by the side of the tee.

Under the circumstances, the 71 by Emanuele Canonica, the first man out, represented a miraculous score. Canonica eagled the 1st when, after a massive, wind-assisted drive had travelled 300 yards, he sank his second shot, a 50-yard pitch with a sand-wedge.

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A few minutes later players were hauled off in off the course because of the danger of lightning.

Canonica, an Italian, dropped only two strokes all day. But perhaps he is used to leaving into the wind. After all, he comes from Pisa.

No two players demonstrated such contrasting fortunes as Andrew Oldcorn and Colin Montgomerie. Both are thought to be Scottish. Montgomerie is thought he chooses to live in Surrey. Oldcorn is not, though he lives in Edinburgh, has a Scottish accent and supports Hearts. Born in Bolton, he won the English amateur championship in 1982.

Oldcorn's round of 71 was was ten strokes better than Montgomerie's 81 and meant he finished on 289, one over par, nine strokes ahead of Montgomerie. Oldcorn had no difficulty on the 2nd, a par three of 165 yards. Montgomerie found the green but then took five putts.

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When Montgomerie was asked if it was true that he had taken five putts there was a risk of an explosion. In truth, he is making big strides in controlling his temper and he kept a sufficient grip of himself to explain that he held his

putter lightly and thus found it less easy to putt well in a wind.

"I have never won in a wind," Montgomerie said. It was pointed out that he had nearly won the 1992 US Open at Pebble Beach when the breeze was certainly more than a zephyr. Montgomerie

is sharper than a tack. There is

never any point in trying to outsmart him. "That was not because I hit my irons so close," he replied. "I didn't really have to putt that day."

Montgomerie must be

dreading the arrival of this

event each year. Last season

he finished with an 84. "I

don't know what I'll do next year," he said. "I am not

looking forward to coming back here. It is so exposed."

You could play at Wentworth

and it would be little more

than a breeze, but here it's a

gale."

Once the weather had calmed down, Langer, buffeted by wind and rain, refused to be distracted by conditions.

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RUGBY LEAGUE: INSPIRED SECOND-HALF BURST HALTS A TWO-YEAR UNBEATEN HOME RUN BY LANCASHIRE SIDE

Leeds end proud Salford record

LEEDS Rhinos brought to an end the two-year unbeaten home league record of Salford Reds with an inspired second-half performance that enabled them to consolidate third place in the Super League.

The teams were level at 14-14 in the 50th minute, but

Sterling scored his second try from Harris's kick and Harris then nipped over from acting half back and converted his own try to give Leeds a 14-10 half-time lead.

Salford drew level through MacAvoy, but Leeds then took full control with Hassan

racing 75 yards after a smart scrum move. Holroyd added a dropped goal to make it 21-14 and Leeds then confirmed their superiority with further tries from Sheridan and Hassan, with a superb 90-yard effort.

Halifax Blue Sox staged a spectacular finale to overcome Warrington Wolves 42-30 after an exciting, 14-try spectacular that was decided only in the final eight minutes at Tarvin Hall.

Warrington, still finding their feet under Daryl van de Velde, their new coach, opened the scoring on eight minutes through Sculthorpe.

Halifax gained the initiative with first-half tries from Bouyouf Chester and the first of two from Tuilagi. Tu Kohere-Lope replied for Warrington with a try on 19 minutes, followed by the first of two from Wingfield to make the half-time score 18-10 to Halifax.

In the second half, Pearson, of Halifax, and Sheldrick, of Warrington, were sent to the sin-bin after an exchange of blows before Wingfield scored his second try.

Michael Jackson turned the game in Halifax's favour with his first try on 52 minutes, following a thrilling 40-metre run. He added a second after 60 minutes, after a similar burst which fully justified his man-of-the-match award. Warrington fought back through Briers and Vagana, but Halifax sealed the game with late tries from Rowley and Tuilagi.

Castlford Tigers remain at the foot of the Super League after their tenth successive league defeat, against Paris Saint-Germain. Paris trailed 5-2 at the interval but second-half tries from Bergman and O'Donnell steered them to only their second league win of the season.

Eagles hit by fourth successive defeat

Sheffield Eagles 14

Oldham Bears 18

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE manner of their defeat would hardly have encouraged potential investors to purchase a stake in Sheffield's proposed public flotation.

Sheffield's fourth successive loss has dragged them into a scramble, involving four clubs, at the foot of the Super League to avoid the supposed one relegation place. However, if Oldham Bears can repeat the resolution shown yesterday at the Don Valley Stadium, they could well start to climb away from the danger zone.

Results and tables 40

After losing to Halifax in the final minute of their last match, there was particular satisfaction for Oldham in their second league victory. After Andy Goodway's departure as coach, Bob Lidner, who has arrived back at the club as football manager, has instilled a spirit that withstood a Sheffield fight-back in the second half. His rains were cut to the quick by the finish, however.

Oldham's point-scoring was confined to the first half. They ran out to *Teddy Bear's Picnic*, and, suitably provoked, exploited Sheffield's vulnerability out wide twice in the opening six minutes. The Eagles' defence slithered in its vain pursuit of Abram, and was then caught out on the other flank by Hill, after a knock-on from Broadbent.

Broadbent, a dual international, agreed another 12-month deal with the Blue Sox as compensation for missing six weeks of the season as he tours South Africa with the Lions.

China strike quickly

SWIMMING: China captured the first gold medal of the East Asian Games in Pusan, South Korea, yesterday when Zhi Yingwei won the women's 100 metres freestyle on the first day of competition. Zhi finished in a time of 56.72sec, followed by Gao Wei, also of China. Lee Bo-Eun, of South Korea, was third. China won 25 gold medals at the previous Games.

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FIRST NATIONAL

FOOTBALL: MANCHESTER UNITED PROVE EFFICIENT TO THE LAST AS SEASON ENDS IN CELEBRATION

Champions' title party runs smoothly

Manchester United 2
West Ham United 0

By MARK HODKINSON

SKILL, endurance, luck and supreme confidence are all vital ingredients for a team to secure the FA Carling Premiership title. Another crucial factor is organisation and Manchester United, typically, excel in this particular field. In short, they now had to organise a party.

Visitors to Old Trafford yesterday were presented with an official timetable of events, neatly typed and laid out like a GCSE examination paper.

Four of the United sides — the reserves, A team, B team and, of course, their first team, have won their respective leagues. So Eric Cantona received his player-of-the-year award on the centre circle (south side), while the supporters' tribute to Sir Matt Busby took place at the South West Quadrant. It seemed almost incidental that at 4pm a football match started between Manchester United and West Ham United.

Again, the downgrading of the final Premiership matches of the season owed everything to Manchester United's nerves. It should have been a frantic showdown, a breathless sprint between the football giants from Manchester, Newcastle United and Liverpool. Like the weather yesterday — rain, sun, rain — United's form has been more patchy than expected but they had secured the championship with two games to spare.

Yesterday afternoon the ground was awash with the flags of several European countries to reflect the team's cosmopolitan make-up. The communal singing was eventually interrupted by the kick-off and West Ham, free of the threat of relegation, advertised their mood of relaxation when Kitson lifted the ball out of play direct from the kick-off.

Manchester United immed-



Crowning glory: the Manchester United team begins as the team celebrates with the Premiership trophy at Old Trafford yesterday

iately fell into their seamless passing game and were rewarded with a fine goal from Scholes. After some patient approach work, he thundered a shot against the underside of the crossbar and Solksjaer headed in the rebound to make sure. The goal, though it lifted the crowd, did little for the game as a contest.

United were happy to retreat deep into their own half while West Ham covered any runs that threatened to move into their territory. The sun broke free from a burr of clouds and, amid the concise but unadventurous passing, it

was clear that minds had already wandered to the final whistle and the inevitable celebration party.

Jordi Cruyff was brought on soon after half-time and there were suggestions that the presence of his famous father in the stands had prompted the substitution; it was that kind of afternoon.

Dowd moved in on goal but on to the ball as he tried to shoot. Lomas brought a save from Schmeichel as West Ham added a dash of adventure. Bilel even summoned the energy to set about Beckham after

the midfield player had clipped the ball to the feet of Cruyff. The Dutchman shifted his weight and crashed the ball past Miklosko.

A light aircraft circled overhead bearing the message "MUFC — champions again" and the crowd urged Schmeichel to move forward to join the United attack.

Though the scoreline now flattered United, it was fitting that their championship season should end in a suitably relaxed mood. The final cameo of an otherwise predictable afternoon saw Les Sealey, the former Manchester United goalkeeper, replace Miklosko

in the West Ham goal. He ruffled the applause of the Stretford End and truly ignited the party atmosphere.

The rain poured down, the championship trophy came out, and, once more, Manchester found itself at the epicentre of footballing excellence.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-2-3-1): P. Schmeichel (4-1-2); D. May, R. Johnson, P. Neville — R. Keane, S. Scholes (sub: J. Cruyff, 49); L. Bilel (sub: J. Beardsley, 72); P. Solksjaer (sub: J. Cantona, 0); G. S. Souness.

WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-2): L. Miklosko (sub: L. Sealey); R. Ferdinand, P. Merson, J. McAnuff, S. Lomas, H. Parkes, S. Lazaridis (sub: I. Dowes, P. Nelson). Referee: S. Lodge

PERHAPS there was too much at stake. Nerves twanged like violin strings as the sides strove for very different goals at opposite ends of the FA Carling Premiership table yesterday. The quality of the football suffered terribly, but with the help of a couple of outside agencies, both clubs achieved their objectives.

Villa's narrow victory means that they will play in Europe next year for the sixth time since the ban on English clubs was lifted in 1991. Southampton, meanwhile, have defied gravity yet again. How they do so year in and year out — next year will be their twentieth successive season in the top flight — is one of the more enduring conundrums.

Teams managed by Graeme Souness always attempt to play decent football, but Souness is a man whose principles are heavily underpinned by a pronounced streak of pragmatism. His team sheet revealed his intentions before a ball was kicked — no Le Tissier or Berkovic in the starting line-up; this was not going to be pretty.

Le Tissier seems more and more to have become a peripheral figure in the Southampton set-up. He fitted in and out of games as a substitute as Southampton put together a run of four victories and three draws in the seven games that preceded this one. Souness's message could not have been clearer had he shouted it from on high: discipline first, the clever stuff second and last.

It was not clear which of those two qualities was uppermost in the mind of Dryden, the Southampton centre back.

Blackburn beaten by lack of appetite for the fray

Blackburn Rovers 2
Leicester City 4

By DAVID MILLER

FOR Blackburn Rovers, this was one match too far. Had the point on Thursday against Middlesbrough not brought safety, their place in the FA Carling Premiership would have been in dire danger on this last rain-swept afternoon at Ewood Park, the steel monument to Jack Walker set in homely Lancashire hills.

Leicester City, who likewise had gained midweek security with victory on Wednesday, had, in a word, appetite. Blackburn did not. The months of anxiety had drained their willpower. With the job that mattered already done, Blackburn's empty legs and flagging hearts were unmistakably apparent as 11 men stood immobile, hands on hips, as Leicester ran back to the centre circle after Steve Claridge had scored to give them a 2-1 lead ten minutes into the second half.

One minute after Claridge's goal, Blackburn were effectively buried by a further strike of breathtaking brilliance by Heskey, who brushed past a defender to fire a rising drive behind and above Flowers into the roof of the net.

Promoted Leicester may have struggled to hold their status, but the clear impression is that Martin O'Neill has formed the basis of a side that may prosper next season. They might even, as Coca-Cola Cup-winners, surprise a few in the UEFA Cup.

There are many anonymous, unsung heroes in football every year. The foremost this season is surely Tony Parkes, a temporary manager whose diligence, integrity and modesty have given fresh definition to the term "caretaker". When he took charge of his club for the third time, succeeding the marooned Ray Harford in October, many doubted whether Blackburn could be rescued and few supposed that Parkes would be the one to go the distance and do so.

When he briefly ran on to the pitch, track-suited, to receive a supporters' award before the kick-off, presented by Walker, the moment touched the emotions of any neutral with affection for this famous old club. Walker's bold promise of being "regular in Europe" to a newly-cheerful audience was less easy to endorse. Having spent one fortune to win the championship, Walker probably needs to spare another now to stay afloat.

Blackburn were soon finding it an uphill fight. Early on, a scooped cross from the left by Guppy was headed by Heskey down into the corner of Flowers' net, with the ever-vigilant Hendry failing to get in a challenge. Undeterred by the injury for which he will soon undergo an operation.

A quarter of an hour later, Blackburn were level, with a bit of luck. Gallacher's shot was fumbled by Keller; somebody hacked the loose ball clear and it rebounded into the net off Flitcroft's studs.

Either side of half-time, Fenton, Sherwood and Flitcroft missed openings that might have put Blackburn beyond reach. Instead, Claridge with a neat step-swept an angled shot beyond Flowers and, in the next instant, Heskey made it 3-1. Fenton got one back, but Wilson ended the season with a shot that went in off Keena. Heskey having headed down from beyond the far post. Next season, I suspect, defences will increasingly come to fear Le Tissier's swift and powerful attack.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): P. McShane (sub: L. Canby, B. Smart, C. Dailey, J. Lees); G. Rovest, R. van der Laan, J. Hendry (sub: P. Trofice, 44), A. Aganovic, C. Pashley, R. Wilson (sub: P. Simpson, 70); A. Fenton.

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K. Keller — F. Rønning (sub: S. Wilson, 75), S. Prior (sub: M. Parker, 20), J. Scott, P. Grayson (sub: J. Lawrence, 35), S. Campbell, P. Keenan, N. Lennon, S. Gegg, J. Wright.

Referee: P. Durkin

Villa and Souness are happy to share the plaudits

Aston Villa 1
Southampton 0

By MEL WEBB

PERHAPS there was too much at stake. Nerves twanged like violin strings as the sides strove for very different goals at opposite ends of the FA Carling Premiership table yesterday. The quality of the football suffered terribly, but with the help of a couple of outside agencies, both clubs achieved their objectives.

Villa's narrow victory means that they will play in Europe next year for the sixth time since the ban on English clubs was lifted in 1991. Southampton, meanwhile, have defied gravity yet again. How they do so year in and year out — next year will be their twentieth successive season in the top flight — is one of the more enduring conundrums.

Teams managed by Graeme Souness always attempt to play decent football, but Souness is a man whose principles are heavily underpinned by a pronounced streak of pragmatism. His team sheet revealed his intentions before a ball was kicked — no Le Tissier or Berkovic in the starting line-up; this was not going to be pretty.

Le Tissier seems more and more to have become a peripheral figure in the Southampton set-up. He fitted in and out of games as a substitute as Southampton put together a run of four victories and three draws in the seven games that preceded this one. Souness's message could not have been clearer had he shouted it from on high: discipline first, the clever stuff second and last.

It was not clear which of those two qualities was uppermost in the mind of Dryden, the Southampton centre back.

Results and table 30
Robson's pride 31
Freeman stars 31

at the moment of the all-important goal in the eleventh minute.

There seemed no more than a routine threat as Nelson overflapped from the back and sent in a low cross. There was nobody in a Villa shirt on the end of it, but Dryden still elected to stretch every sinew to cut out the cross and succeeded only in slicing the ball off his boot past Taylor in the Southampton goal.

Disaster, that over-used word of over-statement, rarely applies to something as gloriously trivial as sport, but to Souness and his cohorts on the Southampton bench it would have been dismissed as entirely too trifling a description for Dryden's error. Heads were hung gloom abounding; Villa, meanwhile, acclaimed Nelson as if he had just won the lottery. In a funny sort of way, perhaps he had.

It was the sort of wildly prodigal gesture for which Southampton had become notorious. This, remember, is the side that beat Manchester United 6-0 at the end of October then lost 7-1 to Everton less than two weeks later. There is probably not another side in the Premiership capable of such inconsistency — mercury flows powerfully through the veins of the playing personnel at The Dell.

Southampton showed few signs of breaking down the five-man Villa defence but things changed when Le Tissier was brought on for Ostenstad. Le Tissier had been on the field for barely three minutes when his 35-yard free kick ricocheted off the wall and only a swooping save by Boszic denied him his seventeenth goal of the season.

It was to be Southampton's last hurray. Events at Elland Road and Selhurst Park had kept them up, and Dryden's act of charity had merely underscored Villa's return ticket to Europe. Arms achieved, targets hit: a satisfactory outcome from an unsatisfactory match.

ASTON VILLA (5-3-2): M. Boszic — F. Wilson, J. Pearce, C. Hendry (sub: A. Walker, J. Scott), G. Le Saux — T. Sherwood, P. Grayson, C. Fenton (sub: K. Gallacher, G. Smart); S. Wilson.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): M. Taylor — U. Van Gobbel, C. Lundström, R. Dryden, F. Wilson, N. Anelka, S. Campbell, P. Keenan, N. Lennon, S. Gegg, J. Wright.

Referee: G. Willard

New-look Newcastle joining Europe's elite

Newcastle United 5
Nottingham Forest 0

By ANDREW LONGMORE

FOR the second year in succession, Newcastle had the European Cup on their minds in the last game of the season. That they will make it this time through the tradesman's entrance will matter not a jot to their accountants, who were buoyed by the £4 million renewal of their sponsorship deal with Newcastle Breweries before kick-off and can now anticipate the takings from a preliminary knockout round of Europe's most prized tournament early in August.

Victory then and the big money of the Champions League beckons. No wonder there was much dancing by the grey-suited brigade as news of

Liverpool's draw at Hillsborough filtered through. Not too much should be read into this facile victory over relegated Nottingham Forest. Three goals in six minutes midway through the first half settled the matter, though one would have done so downcast were the visitors, Dalglish, ever the pragmatist, would have been as happy with four clean sheets to end the season.

It was a day of farewells. Nottingham Forest will be purchasing their gazetteers, David Ginola, not granted the sentimental gift of a place on the bench, will be driving his Renault south over the Tyne Bridge. His transfer request has been granted and his departure is the starker reflection of the changing style on Tyneside.

Quite what the future holds for Asprilla remains to be seen. Dalglish

is reputedly captivated by the silky skills of the Colombian, but he has spent £2.5 million on Jon Dahl Tomasson, the leading scorer in the Dutch league. His dichotomy was aptly summed up in the opening half an hour. No sooner had Dalglish turned in disgust as Asprilla dallied terribly over a shooting chance than he was putting his hands together to acknowledge the first of three quickfire goals.

Asprilla scored the first, skipping through the heart of the Forest defence, such as it was, to clip a left-foot shot over Fentress and set up the second for Ferdinand two minutes later with a pass of stunning vision. Admittedly, Forest contributed soundly to their own downfall. It was Stuart Pearce's idea to counter a three-man attack of Ferdinand, Shearer and Asprilla with a three-

man defence then his return to the rank of private will come as a relief.

Without Van Hooijdonk, Saunders, Pearce himself, Crossley and Roy, Forest were clearly planning for the future. It looks a little bleak. For the first ten minutes, they played quite brightly, forcing Simeone into saves at the foot of either post, but once Newcastle had realised that the direct route was the most effective, Forest's fate was sealed.

The third goal came after Barton, breaking forward from deep in his own half, played a swift one-two with Watson and released Ferdinand to drive home a cross-shot. Had Phillips not stuck out a foot to block a Shearer shot, the damage would have been more severe.

Shearer was not denied for long, though there was a touch of good fortune about Newcastle's fourth

goal, in the 37th minute. Elliott's long shot was partially blocked, but bounded up invitingly at the far post where Shearer's shaven head planted it firmly into the net. Newcastle amused themselves after that, bringing on Beardsley for what might prove to be a last roundabout. Elliott added a fifth, 15 minutes from time.

Barcelona or Milan for Newcastle perhaps; Bury for Forest. The crowd glowed over the demise of Middlesbrough and Sunderland. A rousing chorus of "We'll meet again" would have been a more appropriate send-off for Forest.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-3-1-2): P. Simeone — S. Phillips, P. Fentress, J. Ferdinand, D. Watson, J. Beardsley, T. Houghton, R. Elliott (sub: I. Clark, 69); L. Ferdinand, A. Shearer.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (3-5-2): A. Pearce — J. Dalglish, P. Fentress, J. Ferdinand, D. Watson, J. McAnuff, P. Phillips, S. Pearce (sub: C. O'Neill (sub: S. Saunders), T. B. C. Bent), M. Tomasson (sub: A. Asprilla), N. Lennon, J. Wilson.

Referee: M. Reed

Bergkamp adds last memory as Derby say their farewells

Derby County 1
Arsenal 3

By RICHARD HOBSON

WHAT was to become a familiar tale unfolded 102 years ago when Steve Bloomer scored the winning goals at Derby County's first appearance at the Baseball Ground. Yesterday, on their last, they were indebted to a bloomer from a less likely source, but ultimately succumbed to two of the most effective strikers in the FA Carling Premiership.

On a day of last hurrahs, no departure ought to have carried more significance to the contest than that of Tony Adams just 11 minutes into proceedings. Two minutes earlier, the England defender had been booked for clattering into Asprilla. Never one to tip-toe on eggshells, he lunged just as clumsily into Daryl Powell on the opposite flank and saw yellow for a second time.

The crowd roared, just as they had through an emotional pre-match build-up. Alan Hinton, his hair now as snowy-white as the shirts he once adored, flew in from the United States to lead a parade of former players. Charlie George seemed unsure which set of supporters to applaud. His goals against the 1976 European Cup campaign are recalled as fondly in these parts as his winning strike for Arsenal in the FA Cup Final five years earlier is around Finsbury Park.

Brian Clough sent his apologies, citing flu as an explanation for his non-attendance, but Dave Mackay, who led Derby to promotion as a player and the championship as a manager, was present as guest of honour. There was



Wright instinct

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FOOTBALL: COVENTRY'S LAST-GASP HEROICS HELP TO RELEGATE NORTH EAST RIVALS AFTER DRAMATIC PREMIERSHIP DENOUEMENT

City savour sequel to the great escape

Tottenham Hotspur 1
Coventry City 2

By RUSSELL KIMMEL

COVENTRY City, the great escapists of the FA Carling Premiership, did it again yesterday. For the ninth time during their 30-year unbroken run in the top flight of English football, they retained their status in the final match of the season. They needed to beat Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane and for results elsewhere to go their way. What they did, and the other scorelines favoured them, too.

As Martin Bodenham, the referee, blew the final whistle, Gordon Strachan, the Coventry player-manager, first checked that his team was safe and then set off towards the fans, his wee legs working overtime. He bowed, he applauded, he jumped with glee. Were it not so heart-warming, it would have been comical.

"I had to check first that we were all right before I went running out on to the pitch and making a fool of myself," Strachan said. "We were so brave out there, mentally and physically, and I am just delighted for everyone involved with the club, past and present. When something like this happens, you think more of other people than yourself."

Stoked up to near fever pitch, Coventry had come out fighting from the off. The bruising tone was set as early as the second minute, when Carr was felled from behind by an excruciating late tackle from Burrows. Bodenham set his standards, too, by booking him.

Five others joined him in the opening 25 minutes, after a series of petty squabbles, wild challenges and confrontations. Richardson, Williams and Whelan were also caned as Coventry's burning desire threatened to spill over into warfare.

Amid the thunder, though, Coventry were still able to display the finer technique, the more considered skills under pressure. Huckerby was everywhere, disorientating the Tottenham defence with his teasing and taunting. Such bold endeavours were rewarded in the twelfth minute. Whelan delivered the ball invitingly into the area and Dublin glanced the most delicate of headers past Baarden. Dublin, variously used by Strachan as a striker and

central defender, celebrated his thirteenth goal of the season with almost manic gusto.

Once the niggling had subsided, Coventry concentrated on the job. In the 38th minute, with the home defence again absent, they increased their lead. McAllister chipped over a corner from the right and Williams' volleyed past Baarden via a post. Five minutes later, though, Tottenham dredged up a response. Sheringham's 30-yard free kick beat the outstretched hand of Ognivcic, thudded against an upright and sat up for McVeigh to nod in at close range.

As news filtered in from around the country—the kick-off had been delayed by 15 minutes because of traffic congestion—Coventry began to realize their position. If they stayed ahead, they stayed up. Dean's goal for Leeds United against Middlesbrough enhanced that feeling, as did Eustace's effort for Wimbledon against Sunderland. The supporters in sky blue, tuned in to their radios, cheered every snippet of information.

With 15 minutes left and Coventry showing signs of winking, the conundrum became clear. Sunderland and Middlesbrough were gone, consigned to the Premiership dustbin. If Coventry remained their lead, if not, Sunderland would be handed a last-minute reprieve. It was an awful 15 minutes. Burrows's penitence might have faded, but Huckerby's legs had gone and Strachan's voice had almost gone, too. Only the positioning and agility of Ognivcic kept Coventry afloat as the seconds ticked by, slowly, agonizingly.

Twice Ognivcic saved deftly, magnificently, as Penn drove in a shot from only a few yards out and then Dozzell powered in a header from Fox's corner. Then it was over; Bodenham's concluding whistle ending the torment.

"I am desperate for a cup of tea and I just want to sit down," Strachan said, his composure having returned. Coventry had survived, again, at the death—as if it could have been any other way.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): E. Beardsley; R. Vass, J. Storer, S. Campbell, S. Carr; R. Fox, J. Dozzell, A. Shilton (sub: J. Cawthon); D. Richardson, S. Williams, P. McVeigh (sub: N. Funn, 78); COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S. Ognivcic; P. Teller, R. Shaw, P. Whelan, D. Burrows; N. Whelan (sub: P. Jones, 38), J. Richardson, A. Huckerby, M. Richardson, P. Dublin. Substitutes: M. Bodenham.

Referee: M. Bodenham.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: FROM TITLE TO TRAPDOOR

1	MANCHESTER UNITED	Qualified for European Cup							
		P	W	D	L	F			
2	NEWCASTLE UNITED	38	19	11	6	73	40	68	European Cup
3	ARSENAL	38	19	11	6	62	32	66	Uefa Cup
4	LIVERPOOL	38	19	11	6	62	37	66	Uefa Cup
5	ASTON VILLA	38	17	10	11	47	34	61	Uefa Cup
6	CHELSEA	38	16	11	11	58	55	59	Cup Winners' Cup
7	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	38	14	15	9	50	51	57	
8	WIMBLEDON	38	15	11	12	49	46	56	
9	LEICESTER	38	12	11	15	46	54	47	
10	TOTTENHAM	38	13	7	18	44	51	46	
11	LEEDS UNITED	38	11	13	14	28	38	46	
12	DERBY COUNTY	38	11	18	14	45	58	46	
13	BLACKBURN	38	9	15	14	42	43	42	
14	WEST HAM	38	10	12	16	39	48	42	
15	EVERTON	38	10	12	16	44	57	42	
16	SOUTHAMPTON	38	10	11	17	50	58	41	
17	COVENTRY	38	9	14	15	38	54	41	
18	SUNDERLAND	38	10	10	18	35	53	40	Cup Winners' Cup
19	MIDDLESBROUGH	38	10	12	16	51	60	39	
20	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	38	6	16	16	31	59	34	

(Middlesbrough deducted 3 points)

*Winners of FA Cup

†Winners of Cup Winners' Cup

‡Winners of European Cup

§Winners of Uefa Cup

||Winners of European Cup

|||Winners of Cup Winners' Cup

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|||Winners

RACING: SEEBE'S GALLANT SECOND IN POULICHES IS BEST RETURN FOR BRITISH RAIDERS

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT
AT LONGCHAMP

A STRONG British challenge on two French classics yielded precious little at Longchamp yesterday when Always Loyal bettered the travelling triumvirate of Seebe, Red Camellia and Dances With Dreams in the Poule d'Essai des Poulains. And the Michael Stoute-trained Yalaitane, strongly fancied for the Poule d'Essai des Poulains, disappointed in fourth behind the impressive Daylami.

Yalaitane established his credentials when mastering

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: PALO BLANCO
(4.5 Redcar)
Next best: Mengab
(4.5 Redcar)

subsequent 2,000 Guineas runner-up Revouque at Newbury last month. But the son of Sadler's Wells found himself at the head of affairs from the outset, with Richard Quinn seemingly determined to restrain the free-running colt. Frankie Dettori, riding Bahamian Bounty, was in a similar predicament and the pair had effectively compromised their chances by halfway.

Their tribulations proved academic. Daylami, settled last of the six-strong field, was brought wide into the straight before scything down his opponents in the manner of a top-class miler. He became the eighth Poulains winner for his owner, the Aga Khan, who was quick to dampen speculation



Always Loyal, nearside, denies Seebe, noseband, and Red Camellia in the Poule d'Essai des Poulains at Longchamp

surrounding a possible Derby bid. The Aga Khan was emphatic Daylami's maximum range would be ten furlongs. "He ran over ten furlongs at the end of last year and was beaten in the last 100 metres."

The suspicion was that Always Loyal, who gained a sixth Poulains victory for her trainer, Criqueau Head, landed a soft renewal of the fillies' classic. She conjured a rousing finish, prompting Mme Head

— who gained consolation for

Pas De Reponse's 1,000 Guineas eclipse at Newmarket — to attribute the victory to raw courage. Certainly the filly responded with relish when called to account.

It looked as though Red Camellia's forcing tactics would pay dividends halfway down the home straight, but her trainer, Mark Preston, later admitted he never raised a shout. "We came here knowing she didn't really know a

mile," he said. "It was mission accomplished to finish third." Shee threatened to take advantage of Red Camellia's fate. She may even have headed Always Loyal but Freddie Head would not be denied. "She ran a cracking race," Seebe's trainer, Ian Balding, said. "She was coming back all the time."

Dances With Dreams, trained by Peter Chapman-Hyam, trailed the field before

Always Loyal now heads for

closure late for fourth but Nightbird and Star Profile, the Godolphin-trained duo, failed to strike a meaningful blow.

Seebe eventually failed by a head but Always Loyal, whose third racecourse outing this

was, has greater scope to progress. "In her trial she didn't know what to do when Freddie asked her to sprint," Mme Head said. "Today was different and she showed she is very brave."

Always Loyal now heads for

the Prix de Diane (French Oaks). The disappointment of the race was Mousse Glacee, who never threatened before fading tamely into sixth.

Britain fared better when Ever Gulf Rose last successful in the Prix de l'Abbaye here 19 months ago, held off the late thrust of Titus Llivius in the Prix de Saint-Georges. Seb Sanders handled the mare with aplomb on his first ride at Longchamp. And Clouding, a narrow winner of the Prix Lupin, holds the Derby option if his trainer, Andre Fabre, rates him worthy.

Of more relevance to the Epsom classic was the towering performance of Silver Patriarch in the Tripleprint Derby Trial at Lingfield on Saturday. The son of Saddler's Hall galloped seven lengths clear of Tanaasa to establish himself a worthy opponent for Entrepreneur. The colt is 8-1 for next month's ribble.

WINDSOR

THUNDERER
6.00 Orange Order, 6.30 Tommy Tortoise, 7.00 Farewell My Love, 7.30 Redoutinette, 8.00 Birmingham Blame, 8.30 Farhan.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 8.30 Kroano.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

6.00 FRIED CLAIMING STAKES
(2.30: 64.3; 1m 5f 1y7d) (18 runners)

131 (5) 00-0 MITADORA 19 (GB) 6.00-0 10.00-0 11.00-0 12.00-0 13.00-0 14.00-0 15.00-0 16.00-0 17.00-0 18.00-0 19.00-0 20.00-0 21.00-0 22.00-0 23.00-0 24.00-0 25.00-0 26.00-0 27.00-0 28.00-0 29.00-0 30.00-0 31.00-0 32.00-0 33.00-0 34.00-0 35.00-0 36.00-0 37.00-0 38.00-0 39.00-0 40.00-0 41.00-0 42.00-0 43.00-0 44.00-0 45.00-0 46.00-0 47.00-0 48.00-0 49.00-0 50.00-0 51.00-0 52.00-0 53.00-0 54.00-0 55.00-0 56.00-0 57.00-0 58.00-0 59.00-0 60.00-0 61.00-0 62.00-0 63.00-0 64.00-0 65.00-0 66.00-0 67.00-0 68.00-0 69.00-0 70.00-0 71.00-0 72.00-0 73.00-0 74.00-0 75.00-0 76.00-0 77.00-0 78.00-0 79.00-0 80.00-0 81.00-0 82.00-0 83.00-0 84.00-0 85.00-0 86.00-0 87.00-0 88.00-0 89.00-0 90.00-0 91.00-0 92.00-0 93.00-0 94.00-0 95.00-0 96.00-0 97.00-0 98.00-0 99.00-0 100.00-0 101.00-0 102.00-0 103.00-0 104.00-0 105.00-0 106.00-0 107.00-0 108.00-0 109.00-0 110.00-0 111.00-0 112.00-0 113.00-0 114.00-0 115.00-0 116.00-0 117.00-0 118.00-0 119.00-0 120.00-0 121.00-0 122.00-0 123.00-0 124.00-0 125.00-0 126.00-0 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King's no longer rule waves in water polo

By JOHN GOODBODY

NO SCHOOL has been so dominant in water polo in recent years as King's, Grantham. Coached by Jim Caulfield, a martinet in the pool but a charming man away from it, King's have usually been supreme in the national schools championships.

In the under-19 event they will five of the eight titles up to 1996. In the under-19s King's won nine times in the 13 years up to 1996.

Caulfield said: "The standard is getting better every year. I know how Alex Ferguson feels. Still, I get a buzz from these competitions. The adrenalin starts pumping. It's a drug but at least I sleep better than I used to do." He admitted that he "took his frustration out in a vocal sort of way".

He can say that again. His cajoling and criticism on the side of the pool clearly motivates his teams. He wants to win so much that the boys inevitably respond. They want to win for themselves but also for him. It gives them extra incentive. Caulfield said: "One boy said to me that the day I stop shouting is the day I will stop coaching. He was probably right."

The hardest thing is to keep the consistency. You try to get everyone sharp and ready on the same day. Sometimes not everyone is firing on all cylinders."

In the under-16 event at Putney on Saturday, King's lost 19-3 to Queen Elizabeth, Barnet, who went on to take the title by beating Trinity, Croydon, 19-6 in the final.

In the under-19 competition King's faced Haberdashers' Aske's, Elstree.

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

their opponents in this final in the previous two years. For Trevor Hyde, the Haberdashers' coach, who began these championships 21 years ago, it was the moment for which he had been waiting.

Haberdashers' had never won the title but this year had a team bristling with talent, including James Kattan and Matthew Irish, both of whom have captained the England junior team, and two national trialists, Alex Shaw and Ashley Blake.

The final was an epic, with John Allan, of the City of London School, commenting:

"It was a real showcase for the sport."

There was never more than two goals between the teams. They were 5-5 at half-time, 9-9 at full time, 10-10 after one period of extra time and 11-11 at the end of extra time. The teams then went into sudden death and Haberdashers' scored the decisive goal to take the title 12-11. Hyde said:

"Jim is the person I look up to most in coaching water polo. It was a measure of the man that he was the first to congratulate our captain."

Haberdashers' have five water polo teams. Hyde said: "It is not difficult to interest boys in the game but it is harder to develop an interest than, say, in football or rugby, which are often on television and tactics and techniques are analysed. That is a learning environment for a boy."

Yet, water polo, he said, has many advantages as a sport. "Most activities are about athletic prowess on the land. Water polo is about athletic prowess under water."

Many natural ball players are poor swimmers and vice versa, so the sport evens out the differing requirements.

Allan said: "A lot of good swimmers are not good water polo players. They swim into corners and get lost."

Both he and Hyde agree that a requisite is to be a good strategist and to be able to see what is happening around you through flailing arms, splashing water and with a restricted vision because the head is only just above the water.

Although the sport is renowned for its aggressive toughness, the water, explained Hyde, is a "friendly environment", pointing out that "you do not get collisions of bones on a frozen pitch." He has seen only six serious accidents in 32 years involved in the sport. Allan, just two during his 22 years.

But, Hyde added, water polo is also a hard sport. "You cannot breathe when you want to," he said. "Often, just as you are about to breathe, another tackle comes in."

Results, page 40



City of London and Trinity, Croydon, wage battle at Putney

Withdrawal symptoms on horizon

The tobacco companies will be nervously monitoring the Queen's Speech this week to learn the full extent of the Government's proposed advertising ban. The industry is under siege, facing smoking-related damages cases in Britain and the United States, and most Western governments are increasing advertising and marketing restrictions.

In recent years, sport sponsorship has become one of the most important forms of brand-building for the tobacco companies faced with restrictions on other forms of advertising. Sports as diverse as snooker and motor racing were best-known for its Regal and Embassy cigarettes, has supported snooker events for 22 years and the snooker authorities are convinced that without this backing the sport would never have achieved its high profile.

The company has also been a big sponsor of fishing competitions which have a huge following.

The impact of the withdrawal of tobacco money can be seen on a sport that has been demonstrated by the flight of Hickstead, the premier show-jumping arena, which earlier this year, lost £400,000 of sponsorship money provided by Silk Cut. It has taken the intervention of Paul Schockemöhle, the former German showjumper, to save the Royal International Horse Show, but the future of the Hickstead Derby hangs in the balance.

British tobacco companies spend £8 million a year on sport — about 20 per cent of their marketing budget. This only represents about 3 per cent of all sporting sponsorship, but it is highly concentrated on a number of smaller sports and the impact of its withdrawal could be devastating.

The highest-profile beneficiary of tobacco money is Formula One motor racing. Six of the 12 race teams have substantial tobacco backing. A British ban on advertising is unlikely to end tobacco sponsorship of Formula One, but it could lead to the cancellation of races in this country.

Bernie Ecclestone,

the sport's supremo,

has already revealed that he is looking to expand the sport into Asia-Pacific — partly to win new followers, but also to avoid restrictions on tobacco sponsorship.

Europe is likely to lose

some of its races with the

French Grand Prix, where

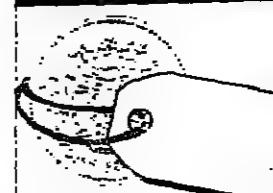
restrictions are especially

tough, favoured to disappear first. If Britain follows the

French lead, Ecclestone would

have few qualms about remov-

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT



ing the British Grand Prix from the Formula One fixture list.

However, the withdrawal of tobacco sponsorship could lead to some UK-based sports falling into long-term decline. The Imperial Tobacco Group, best-known for its Regal and Embassy cigarettes, has supported snooker events for 22 years and the snooker authorities are convinced that without this backing the sport would never have achieved its high profile.

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Tobacco companies argue that they operate under a voluntary code of practice that prevents the sponsorship of events in which a significant number of under-18s take part.

The television companies impose further restrictions on how tobacco logos are displayed when sports events are televised.

But even if the Government leaves tobacco sponsorship of sport untouched in this parliamentary session, there can be little doubt that it will remain vulnerable to new restrictions in the future. Sports which are especially reliant on tobacco money are almost certainly going to have to learn to wean themselves off the habit.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

Challenge crews relishing calm after the storm



In the middle of one of the more relentless storms in the Southern Ocean, someone commented that they could not imagine ever being warm and dry again. Now, just a week into the fifth leg of the BT Global Challenge, we are already in shorts and T-shirts and it is fast becoming hard to imagine being thoroughly cold and wet.

The crew's reflections on the Southern Ocean range from the odd one who would vaguely contemplate returning, perhaps as skipper for the next race or maybe to round Cape Horn the "right" way, to the sentiment expressed by Sarah Brice, the medic on *Concert*, that the only ice she intended to see again was in a gin and tonic.

Cap Town was a tremen-

dous stopover. Apart from the fact that we were relieved to get there, it was an exciting place to visit and, although there was a lot of work to do on the boat, we managed to fit in a bit of exploring, including a scramble up Table Mountain.

In total, we had three weeks to recover from the rigours of the Southern Ocean and to prepare both ourselves and the boat for a very different leg. With some newly replaced parts to the boat — the pulpit on the bow had been battered out of all recognition — and the crew and skipper, Chris Tibbs, all mended and in working order, we were more than ready for the run to Boston.

The start was as impressive as expected in the shadow of Table Mountain. There were

more people than we have seen at any other port, giving us a tremendous send-off, helped by a very impressive "blessing of the waves" by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The weather was kind, too, as we set off in blazing sunshine and then we really did sail off into the sunset — a glorious orange one.

There could be no greater contrast to the previous leg. Our only reminders are the weather faxes received on the on-board computer, which still depicts large areas of the Southern Ocean. We now take

Lucy Duncan says
thoughts are now
turning to home on
board *Concert*

great delight in looking from a distance at some horrible depressions, imagining the storms down there while we are rather snugly up here.

No longer do we have to drag waterlogged sails across a heaving deck, being regularly submerged by large waves. Since the start we have been sailing downwind with spinnakers, which is considerably more pleasant in comparison. No longer do we have to be woken half an hour before our next watch in order to struggle into numerous layers

of clothing. Now it is a five-minute job to stagger out of bed and go straight on deck in casual clothing.

Consequently, the need for sleep is not so urgent and we have more time. We are all talking to each other much more again. We never seemed to have the time in the Southern Ocean — we were too busy just holding on and surviving.

Conversations and thoughts are now beginning to turn to plans for after the race. Cape Town seems to have been something of a watershed and the end of the race is starting to become a reality. Approximately half the crew of *Concert* are intending to return to their jobs, though no one is quite sure of their expectations or how they will cope with "real life"

SAILING
Dutchman defies odds and squalls

By EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

ROY HEINER, of Holland, swept into the finish of the Royal Ocean Racing Club's North Sea Race at Scheveningen on Saturday on his new Mount Gay 30 Deugnit, to steal first place overall in the IMS division from many larger yachts.

Heiner, who is based at Enkhuizen on the Ijsselmeer and won a bronze medal in the Finn class at the Olympic Games, was all the more impressive for having won on a yacht designed to carry water ballast. This is illegal under IMS rules, so his tanks were empty and sealed.

More than half the 60 starters who mustered off Harwich on Friday for the 192-mile race were Dutch, preparing for the IMS European championships next weekend.

A squally south-westerly produced plenty of power amid frequent showers. After a short beat at the start, the fleet was off the wind for most of the race, including a fast spinnaker run up to Smith's Knoll off the Norfolk coast and then a long broad reach on starboard to MSP buoy off Ijimuiden.

The first finishers, including Richard Mathews's Oyster 46, *Essex Girl*, which took line honours, were able to fetch all the way to the line. But most of the fleet was forced to tack and they had the 25-knot southerly in their faces as they approached Scheveningen.

In the British-dominated CHS division, David Powell on his West Mersea-based *Lightwave* 35, *Blush*, prevailed in Class 1 from the Dutch-owned *J44*, *J-Star*. In Class 2, David Geaves's successful *T35*, *Fiona VII*, won for the second year in succession. In Class 3 the *ODD34*, *Twee Gevers*, owned by Hans Zuiderhaan but skippered by his wife, Hannah, emerged victorious.

Captain Roy Aspinall, of West Mersea, won Class 4 on his well-travelled *UFO 34*, *Bellerophon*.

Curling severs link with Barber

POINT-TO-POINT
BY CLARE EVANS

ONE of the sport's most successful partnerships ended on Saturday when Polly Curling finished her association with Richard Barber, the Dorset trainer.

"Having been the yard's No 1 rider in the past I have been unhappy at getting fewer rides this season," Curling said from her Somerset home yesterday. "The final straw

came when I was told Polly Gundry would ride Earthmover at Chepstow."

One of the best six-year-olds in the country, Earthmover had been ridden by Curling until injury prevented her partnering him in two recent wins, when Gundry took over.

Point-to-pointing's most successful rider in recent years, Curling, 32, became Barber's first-choice jockey in 1993 and capped her association with the yard when

she won the national women riders' title three times in that period but the non-stop success ended last year when Curling took a number of heavy falls and lost her women's championship title to Alison Dare. Some owners in the yard lost faith in Curling and Tim Mitchell effectively

became top rider. Mitchell rode Fantus at Cheltenham in March when the gelding collected his second Foxhunters' Chase, a demotion for Curling which she felt acutely.

Any ill feeling was suppressed when Curling raced to 16 winners this year and she was on course for another women's riders' title until a fall on an outside ride last month rendered her unconscious and forced her to the sideline for the mandatory 21 days.

She had a quiet return last week but when told Gundry would ride Earthmover, Curling declined the ride on Old Mill Stream, the ladies' open winner under Gundry at the Midsomer & West Somerset on Saturday.

"We had some great times and I rode more than 100 winners for the yard," Curling said.

"But when you ride for a high-profile yard you are expected to win on everything. Sometimes people forget that when you ride a lot of five-year-olds you are bound to have falls. Now I'm looking forward to riding for some old friends. I've ridden 195 winners and my next goal is 200. I'm certainly not packing the sport up."

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SATURDAY'S DETAILS

BILSDALE (Essebrough): Hunt 1, Dangold 1, (N Smith 1-3), 2, Timbo Topper, 3, Singing Sam 6 ran, Conqueror 1, Backyard 1, (N Smith 1-3), 2, Dangold 1, (N Smith 1-3), 3, Gandy 1, 4, 5 ran, 6 ran, 7 ran, 8 ran, 9 ran, 10 ran, 11 ran, 12 ran, 13 ran, 14 ran, 15 ran, 16 ran, 17 ran, 18 ran, 19 ran, 20 ran, 21 ran, 22 ran, 23 ran, 24 ran, 25 ran, 26 ran, 27 ran, 28 ran, 29 ran, 30 ran, 31 ran, 32 ran, 33 ran, 34 ran, 35 ran, 36 ran, 37 ran, 38 ran, 39 ran, 40 ran, 41 ran, 42 ran, 43 ran, 44 ran, 45 ran, 46 ran, 47 ran, 48 ran, 49 ran, 50 ran, 51 ran, 52 ran, 53 ran, 54 ran, 55 ran, 56 ran, 57 ran, 58 ran, 59 ran, 60 ran, 61 ran, 62 ran, 63 ran, 64 ran, 65 ran, 66 ran, 67 ran, 68 ran, 69 ran, 70 ran, 71 ran, 72 ran, 73 ran, 74 ran, 75 ran, 76 ran, 77 ran, 78 ran, 79 ran, 80 ran, 81 ran, 82 ran, 83 ran, 84 ran, 85 ran, 86 ran, 87 ran, 88 ran, 89 ran, 90 ran, 91 ran, 92 ran, 93 ran, 94 ran, 95 ran, 96 ran, 97 ran, 98 ran, 99 ran, 100 ran, 101 ran, 102 ran, 103 ran, 104 ran, 105 ran, 106 ran, 107 ran, 108 ran, 109 ran, 110 ran, 111 ran, 112 ran, 113 ran,

CRICKET

Covers shielding playing flaws are washed away

IT WAS almost teatime on the eighth day of the Britannic Assurance county championship programme before the first victory of the season was recorded. The fact that it went to Gloucestershire will raise a few eyebrows; the fact that they beat Hampshire will not.

There have been two principal topics of conversation during this sudden start to summer and only one has concerned the weather. Cricket, thus far, might have been fragmented, frustrating and sometimes futile, but it has not been unrevealing. Already, it is clear that a number of teams are depressingly inadequate.

Hampshire are but one of these. Like most sides who consider themselves "in transition" — a useful mitigation for teams not as good as they used to be — their players are either young and promising or old and past their best. They lack the vital middle ground, men in their prime to do the bulk of the work.

But for the washout of the fourth day in the opening round of fixtures, in which they were decidedly second-best against Essex, they would have suffered two heavy defeats by now and there are doubtless more to come.

Matthew Hayden may begin to score the mountains



Championship
Commentary

of runs that he forecast for himself when the sun does shine in earnest, and there is something to like in the youthful seam bowling of Dimitri Mascarenhas and Simon Renshaw, but Hampshire, on early evidence, will struggle.

If the gauge for this is that they were soundly thrashed by Gloucestershire, who are themselves highly unlikely to win anything grander than the Cosicutter Cup, then bleaker judgment still can be made of Nottinghamshire. They required a luncheon abandonment on Saturday to

reipre them from the unthinkable — a championship loss against Durham.

Such hearty, time-honoured scepticism may be unjust to a Durham side that now has a considerable man as leader, in David Boon, and has signed wisely to reinforce a steady batting order with Nick Speak and Martin Speight. The weather on Saturday was cruel, for neutrals everywhere would have cheered their first victory for two years. But it would still have said too much about the shortcomings of their opponents.

In the early 1990s, Nottinghamshire spent three seasons out of four in the championship place-money. They were eleventh in 1993 and seventeenth a year later, when they lost eight of their last ten matches.

They are picking up where they left off, and, without the dynamism of Chris Cairns, it is even difficult to imagine a repeat of the transient redemption they claimed last season from a silver medal in the Sunday League.

Tim Robinson, 40 next year, is still much their best batsman and the fact that their bowling attack is led by Kevin Evans, an admirably loyal and wholehearted servant who would be a decent first-change in most sides, is sufficient indictment.

Evans, Franks, Bowen, Tolley and Bates — the bowling line-up at Hartlepool — must rank as one of the most anonymous and innocuous attacks of recent years. Mohammad Zahid, Cairns's replacement, may take some wickets if and when he shakes off niggling injuries but he remains a prime example of a club snatching at an overseas player for the sake of having one.

The problems do not end there. Highly promising young players, such as Matt Dowman, Usman Afzaal and Jimmy Hindson have simply not thrived on Trent Bridge and people are entitled to wonder why. There is a pervasive doomsday about the image of the club, which may not help, and for a big county with a much-loved Test ground, Nottinghamshire are in a deepening mess.

They managed a solitary championship win last year and may have a considerable wait for one this time around. They do not, for instance, meet Sussex until the final match of the season, by which time spirit is annually the decisive factor among those teams with nothing to play for but pride.

And this, for all the brave words of their new men at the helm, will assuredly be the fate of Sussex, for they plainly lack the resources to be competitive in a four-day environment. With some burgeoning youngsters and a healthy defiance of the general inclination to write them off, Sussex may get by in limited-overs cricket, may even surprise a few. But it requires such a mind-boggling coincidence of scores and results that the prospect cannot be taken seriously.

Victory over Worcestershire, in their final group match at Old Trafford, would not in itself be enough. Lancashire would need to make a record total to boost their inferior run-rate and then rely on Warwickshire beating Derbyshire at Derby. It is all too fanciful. Lancashire are out and deservedly so.

After some debate, Sussex agreed to back down and will not now be shaking up the citizens of Hove with lights, music and all things modern until the end of August. Their opponents appropriately, will be Surrey.

The notion, one of a number formulated by the sharp mind of Tony Pigott, the new chief executive, is designed to attract people who work nine-to-five and could therefore see half a day's cricket straight from the office.

It is an extension of the floodlit cricket exercise, revived by Surrey and taken up enthusiastically this summer by both Warwickshire and Sussex. All three are to stage Axa Life League fixtures on midweek evenings, probably with a 5pm start, and the prospect of a nasty fall-out between two of the experimenters has, thankfully, been avoided.

Sussex had initially decided upon their mid-June fixture with Essex as the ideal night match. Approval had been obtained from the England and Wales Cricket Board and a sponsor was lined up when Surrey made contact with a plea for a postponement.

Surrey's floodlit fixture is against Nottinghamshire on Friday, June 27. It will have television coverage and sponsorship which, apparently, were dependent on it being the first of its kind, a boast that Sussex's plans would have scuppered.

After some debate, Sussex agreed to back down and will not now be shaking up the citizens of Hove with lights, music and all things modern until the end of August. Their opponents appropriately, will be Surrey.

What has gone wrong? Well, an injury or two, certainly, but there is more to it than that. The Lancashire batting has lacked conviction, with

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CRICKET

Byas tilts match in Yorkshire's favour

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

HEADINGLEY Yorkshire won toss; Yorkshire (4pts) beat Glamorgan by seven wickets (D/L method)

THE white rose bloomed beneath unrelenting grey skies yesterday as David Byas, the Yorkshire captain, cast aside his modest limited-overs form with a match-winning innings of 83 in the Axa Life League.

Byas, who hit nine fours and faced 78 balls, gave Yorkshire instant impetus when chasing 193. He dominated an opening partnership of 84 in 12 overs with Michael Vaughan as Wasar Younis, Glamorgan's last-bowling import from Pakistan, struggled on his Sunday debut. Yorkshire won with 33 balls to spare.

After dispensing with their out-grounds, apart from Scarborough, more matches will be played at this old-established arena than in living memory, and the focus at Headingley is sharper than ever.

This pitch looked in far better shape than the dual purpose surface for the Benson and Hedges Cup game against Worcestershire and the drawn championship match against Glamorgan. It had some pace, which suited Tony Cottee, who hit six fours and two sixes from 31 balls, and offered equal encouragement for the bowlers. Except for pulling rabbits from a hat, Cottee did almost everything else.

Nimble-footed, he moved into position and gave himself room, ultimately perishing in the way he had flourished, moving across his stumps and being yorked by Gough. By then, Cottee had sustained his Sunday form, having made 61 in the defeat by Somerset last week. His fifth-wicket partnership of 83 in ten overs with Robert Croft made a brash statement after the match had been trimmed to 32 overs by a delayed start and a rain interruption.

Croft struck 29 from 27 balls, following the typically purposeful approach of Morris with 30 from 34. Morris, James and Maynard all tumbled to Stemp, whose cumulative limited-overs return is 12 for 189 this season. Stemp's brief glimmer as an England prospect may have been extinguished, but his merits at county level remain undimmed. Now in his fifth summer with the county, he has emerged as Yorkshire's

most consistent early-season bowler.

Gough also had his moments and fondly recalls these Sunday encounters with Glamorgan. Three years ago, he celebrated his selection for England's one-day squad by bowling Yorkshire to a nine-wicket win at Cardiff. The next summer, he yorked Dale with the final ball of the game at Headingley as Yorkshire triumphed by two runs.

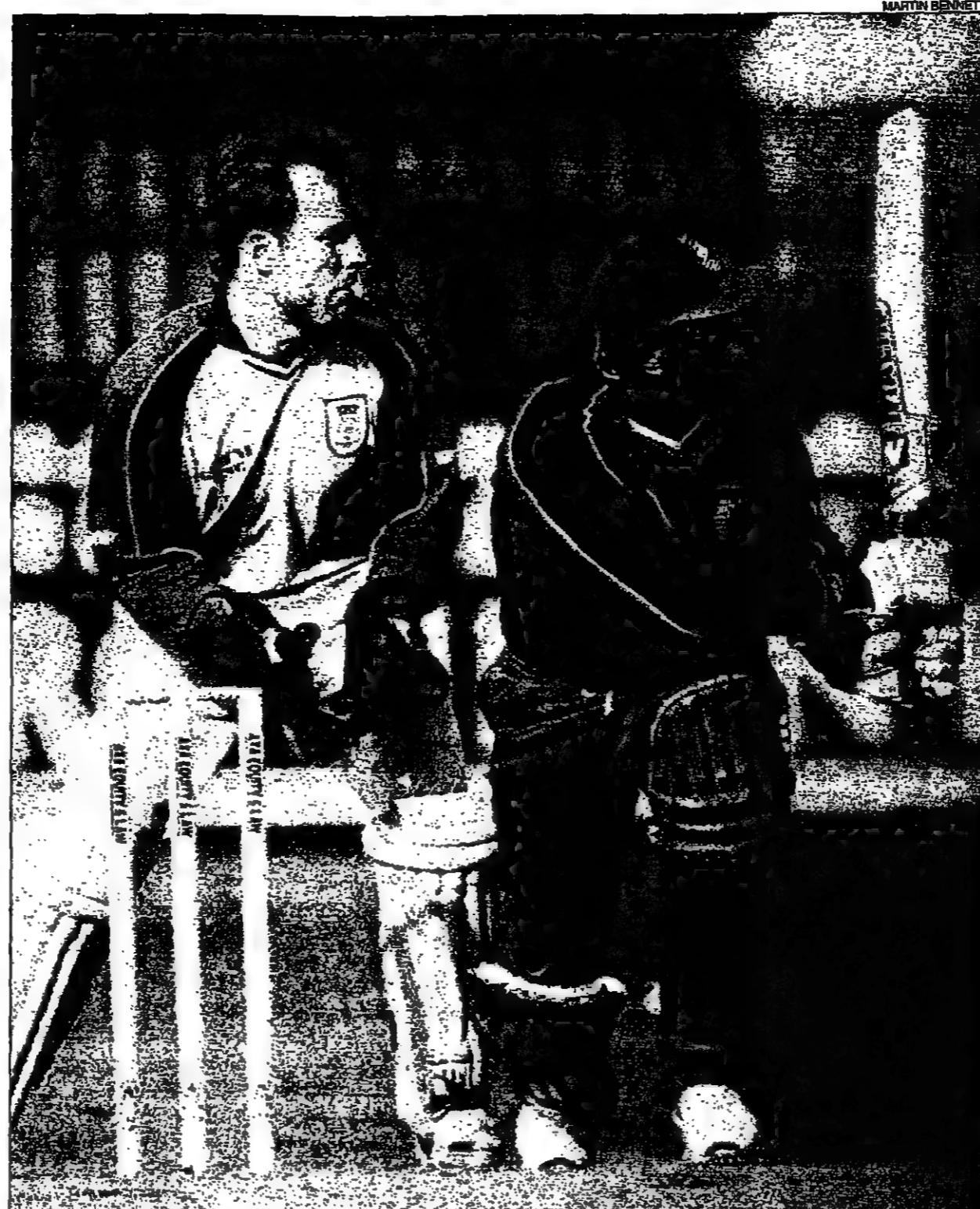
At 37, Hardie had a considerable input in this latest win. With Gough a near-automatic choice for England against Australia this summer, Hardie is an especially precious county commodity. Though omitted from the championship match that ended in a rain-ruined draw on Saturday, Hardie continued his upper-order batting role, this time at No 3. Statistics testify to his unsung past. Needing 25 to complete the Sunday double of 1,000 runs and 100 wickets, he was dismissed for 23 from 17 balls.

Hardie, with 164 wickets, still lurks on the brink of joining that Yorkshire elite of Chris Old, Phil Carrick and Graham Stevenson. Old remains, and will do so alone, on the pinnacle of 1,711 runs and 192 wickets.

Even Hardie's departure did not detract from Yorkshire's advance. Vaughan, with 37 from 34 balls, had been already bowled by a ball from Parkin that kept low.

Yorkshire hurtled along at a carefree seven an over. Wasar then, Cottee had sustained his Sunday form, having made 61 in the defeat by Somerset last week. His fifth-wicket partnership of 83 in ten overs with Robert Croft made a brash statement after the match had been trimmed to 32 overs by a delayed start and a rain interruption.

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Lynch flicks Udal for four during an explosive innings rendered meaningless by the return of heavy rain

Alleyne welcomes team input

By JAMES ALLEN

BRISTOL (Gloucestershire won toss); No result. Gloucestershire (2pts) Hampshire (2)

FOR a man coming to terms with the cares of captaincy, Mark Alleyne cut a relaxed figure. It is no doubt helps that the team he inherited on the eve of the season has taken an early lead in the county championship, but it is hard to imagine the giant smile that regularly breaks across his features being banished for long, even in adversity.

When Byas was caught at short extra cover, Yorkshire needed only 16 runs with eight overs remaining. Darren Lehmann, with three consecutive half-centuries in all competitions, completed the task with an unbeaten 33 from 21 balls.

The annual Costcutter Cup at Harrogate is also among Yorkshire's limited-overs programme. It was announced yesterday that Scotland will compete for the first time, meeting Durham on June 10, with Yorkshire playing Gloucestershire the previous day. The final will be played on June 11.

take the job. "I attended the county captains' meeting in March, but I just went as a representative," Alleyne said.

"Jack was meeting the club the next day and I thought it was a question of just sorting out a few details. They did not agree and I was more than happy to accept their offer. I might have seen a third choice, but I really don't want to look at it that way. The club have been incredibly supportive."

As the rain toyed with the Axa Life League match against Hampshire at Bristol yesterday, which was eventually abandoned after Gloucestershire's truncated innings of 139 for five off 16 overs — Alleyne outlined the way in which he aims to construct a team that is more than the sum of its parts.

"I'm not a dictator," he said. "I aim to listen and give everyone a chance to say what they want. It's important to have open discussion. I don't

want anyone whingeing, because they will have had the chance to put across their point of view."

In Russell and Tony Wright, he has two experienced former captains on whom to rely for advice, but ultimately the decisions will be his alone. He greets enquiries about who picks the team with an emphatic "I do" and articulates his thoughts on how Gloucestershire can build upon their championship victory on Saturday with care.

"We're not the kind of team who can afford to be lazy, we must play to our full potential all the time. We are a side where nearly everybody does more than one thing, where everybody has to contribute. It's so easy on days like this," he gestures towards the covers in the middle — "to let things drift, but we must retain our focus."

Judgments made at this time of year often need revising come September, but the signs are encouraging. Lawrence's return has given morale a huge boost, Lynch is scoring runs freely — his unedited 88 yesterday, made off 51 balls, was another spectacular though ultimately meaningless innings — and Shaun Young may turn out to be an inspired choice as overseas player.

"We've started like this before and then fallen away," Alleyne said. "The real test is keeping it going."

Lawrence, whose comeback was hampered by a sequence of muscle injuries, will not be considered for the final Benson and Hedges Cup group match against Kent today.

Gloucestershire are also without Jon Lewis, another seam bowler, who has an injury to his bowling hand.

Kamran Shehzad, a seam bowler who did well against Somerset 2nd XI last week, has been brought in.

CYCLING

Feat of Clay enlivens two races

By PETER BRYAN

JON CLAY proved a man for all seasons yesterday when he caused the time-trial upset of the year to win the British ten-mile championship near Burton-on-Humber in his first attempt for a national title against the clock.

It was a championship he did not know he had won until several hours later, unable to stay to the finish to see how he had fared against most of the expected big-hitters who had started up to two hours after the 33-year-old Leeds man.

Clay, off fifteen from a full field of 120 dispatched at one-minute intervals, was in a hurry to get to Lincoln for the

start of the city's annual 102-mile grand prix road race.

When he left he knew that his time of 20min 42sec was fastest. But still to start were all the expected medal-winners, including Rob Hayles, the defending champion, and Sean Yates, a Tour de France time-trial winner in 1988 and now retired from international racing.

But neither Hayles nor Yates was fast enough, with the latter eventually finishing fourth in 21min 13sec; Hayles was two seconds slower.

The early starters had the better weather conditions; as the race progressed there were

near-gale force winds and rain increased the danger of skidding.

The Walker brothers — Harry and Brian — enjoyed a family celebration, taking silver and bronze medals in close order with times of 20min 54sec and 20min 55sec. Both rode machines based on Graeme Obree's original and controversial design.

And Clay? Another fine performance a few hours later at Lincoln, where he finished fourth to the winner, John Tanner, who took over the lead from an absent Hayles in the season-long Premier Criterium competition.

POLO

Minotaurs destroy Bears' myth

By JOHN WATSON

THE Royal Windsor Horse Show Cup was contested by the Minotaurs, who are put together by the Swiss player, Adriano Agostini, and Andrew Hodgkinson's Polo Bears/UBS at Smith's Lawn, Windsor, at the weekend. The Minotaurs won 5-3½.

The Minotaurs' leading player, Cody Forsyth, of New Zealand, who plays off an eight handicap, took a while to settle into smooth partnership with his No 2, Anthony Fanshawe. Thus, during the first half of this rain-soaked match, the Polo Bears' Australian No 3, Glen Gilmore, well-supported by William Hine at

back and Tim Stakem at No 2, led most of the attack.

And, with Gilmore converting a couple of well-lobbed penalty shots during the second half-goal advantage being attributed to their aggregating a team handicap of only 14 against the Minotaurs' 15.

Not only Forsyth and Fanshawe, but also their speedy No 1, Luke Tomlinson, who snapped in a couple of goals, played in harmony during the second half of an exciting encounter, all backing up and passing to one another

in copybook style. Almost every time the Polo Bears attacked in this second phase of the tussle, Forsyth was there to return the ball to their half of the ground, thus frustrating their attempts to regain the lead.

The tournament for the medium-goal Royal Windsor Cup, which has attracted 17 entries and is the next item on the Guards' Club's programme, is to be played in four leagues. That competition starts May 17.

MINOTAURS: 1. C. Forsyth, 3. G. Gilmore, 2. A. Fanshawe, 4. L. Tomlinson, 5. T. Stakem, 6. W. Hine. 1. A. Agostini, 2. A. Hodgkinson, 3. G. Gilmore, 4. L. Tomlinson, 5. C. Forsyth, 6. T. Stakem.

start of the city's annual 102-mile grand prix road race.

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Drug cheats turn to insulin for improved results

John Goodbody warns of sinister use being made of treatment for diabetes

The scourge of drug-taking in British sport has returned, with fatal consequences in one instance.

A 21-year-old bodybuilder is being treated in a Hertfordshire hospital for severe brain damage after injecting himself with excessive amounts of insulin, the drug commonly used for the treatment of diabetes, but also described by one leading body-building magazine as "the most powerful anabolic hormone in the planet."

At an Essex inquest last Thursday, on a 36-year-old fitness trainer, Gary Kendall, the coroner said Kendall's heart was a "time bomb" through anabolic steroid abuse. In February, he had collapsed at his home in Canvey Island, screaming abuse at paramedics and police after they had broken into his home to try to save him after a heart attack triggered by a dose of cocaine.

They have called on the Department of Health to review its policy on the sale of insulin. The Royal Pharmaceutical Society recently warned its members to ensure that sales are made only for the treatment of diabetes.

Dr Rob Dawson, a GP in Tyne and Wear, has also written to the Home Office urging a change in the law. Dr Dawson, who is the medical officer for DISCUS (Drugs in Sport Clinic and User Support), set up by the North Durham Health Authority, said yesterday that "it was a serious health matter. I am aware of one traffic accident already caused by the condition of hypoglycaemia."

"An enlarged heart is a form of disease," she said. "It is progressive and there is no cure. The effect of the steroids built up over the months or years and he would have been at risk of a heart attack at any time."

Although anabolic steroids have been misused in sports such as athletics and American football, rugby union and cycling, for some time, insulin is a recent innovation.

Magazines and internet sites are promoting its use partly because insulin is not a prohibited substance and partly because there is no internationally-accepted test for its detection.

In a letter to the British

SPEEDWAY

Poole strike back to avenge home defeat

By TONY HOMER

THE Elite League shows no sign of settling down from a topsy-turvy start to the season, with a series of shock results unsettling the reputations of the favourites. For example, Bradford travelled to Poole on Wednesday and demolished the Dorset team, securing the match with four heats left.

The 53-37 defeat stunned a Poole side whose promoter had been making bold claims about winning the Elite League just a fortnight earlier.

Things did not improve for Poole at Belle Vue, who coasted to a 61-29 victory against the Pirates, who could offer no resistance to the Manchester club's powerful top quartet.

Then matters took another twist. Poole travelled across the Pennines on Saturday and struck back against the Bradford side that had embarrassed them three days earlier, snatching a 45-44 victory.

The Yorkshire club has historically been invincible around the banked Odsal track but travelled poorly. This year, they signed three small-track experts for away.

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Nokia and the arrow symbol are registered trademarks.

Golf is attracting the young, particularly since the rise of Tiger Woods. Morag Preston goes to golfing school

PHOTOGRAPHS: PETER TREVOR

Lessons for those who aim to be the youngest swingers in town

Years before they have chaired a board meeting or tasted their first gin and tonic, pint-sized youngsters are being persuaded to take to the golf course.

Encouraged by ambitious parents and guided by patient pros, the baby-faced brigade have abandoned their mud-crusted football boots in favour of what is usually regarded as a rather sophisticated sport.

A group of nervous juniors, aged between five and eight, arrived at Foxhills in Ottershaw in Surrey last Sunday afternoon for the first of their four weekly lessons at the country club, of which the football pundit Gary Lineker is a member.

Sores-eyed from swimming and sweaty from one of the many tennis courts, eight sunburnt youngsters — known as the "Wee Wonders" — gathered at the shop before making their way to the all-weather driving range.

According to Marc Hayton, the marketing director, it makes "commercial sense" to introduce juniors.

Charles Lobb — known to his chums as "Door Knob" — was the first to turn up at the 400-acre club, with his an-



ious-looking father in tow. Aged eight, and a dead ringer for Macaulay Culkin, Charles looked every bit the part, dressed in tattered trousers and a Foxhills sweatshirt.

His father, Ian, who is a club member and part-time player, bellowed: "Charles has not really taken an interest in many sports — particularly contact sports — but he loves his golf."

The boy now plays at least once a week.

Next to arrive was Alex Holland, Charles' school friend, who has taken lessons at Foxhills before. Attracting envious glances for his sweatshirt emblazoned with a tiger (they are all Tiger Woods wannabees), Alex announces that he has been putting in



How to hold the club: Stephen Mills of the 400-acre Foxhills in Surrey instructs George Matthews, one of the "Wee Wonders" who go to the course to learn the ancient game

some practice in his front garden at home. It turns out that four of the children go to the same school (Hall Grove in Bagshot, where Nick Faldo's son is a pupil). The school has a five-hole golf course, but these boys are still too young to use it.

"The earlier they learn the better," says Richard Summerscales, 28, a professional at Foxhills for the past 11 years, who did not take up golf until he was 15. "Even if they can't get the correct grip, they can make a good swing. Kids are great mimics, and are less inhibited at an early age."

Allowing for their short attention span, he devises catchy rhymes to keep the game simple, and limits his lessons to 45 minutes maxi-

mum. Describing how to grip a club, he refers to his hand as five sausages, and the other as a greedy dog that gobbles them up.

Summerscales says: "We try not to encourage parents to watch, because we want the kids to concentrate on us. You can tell the ones who are pushed to come — they stubbornly refuse to listen."

He adds: "Children will learn quickly, but you have to keep it fun. They don't want to go to school at the weekend. Balance is the big thing — golf is not down to strength. If they are naturally talented, that will emerge almost immediately."

Club alignment, grip, ball

position, stance and posture are as much as the juniors can hope to learn over the four-week course. They attack the swing in their first two lessons, play a short game in their third, and practise putting during their fourth.

As a cost of £25, the sessions which continue throughout the year, bar a few months in the winter — are almost three times oversubscribed.

"It all evolves around Tiger Woods," Summerscales says. "The same thing happened when Jack Nicklaus burst on the scene — youngsters recognise characters in the game."

There is usually a 3/7 split between girls and boys, but on this occasion eight-year-old Hayley Matthews is the only female. Bobbing gently at the knees with her blonde ponytail in full swing, as she prepares to strike the ball, the promising left-hander has been playing since she was two.

"I play a lot in the summer," she says, "because it's nice and sunny and my dad takes me to the driving range. But I'm not allowed to play in the garden, so at home I just practise my grip."

"My mum had lessons, but she doesn't really like it."

Jack Taylor, a seven-year-old prodigy who first picked up a club two years ago, prefers Foxhills to his back garden, because he keeps losing balls. None of his family plays golf, but one of his more recent Christmas presents was



HOW TO GET STARTED

A JUNIOR might be daunted by a traditional club that has been in existence for years, so the Golf Foundation (01920 484044), set up to promote golf among four to 16-year-olds, subsidises 50 per cent of the cost of group lessons in 1,500 schools and colleges across the country. In association with local authorities, it also runs courses during school holidays.

For the past eight years, Foxhills has hosted an open

day to select four youngsters who would not otherwise be members to be given four years' free membership, plus weekly tuition.

Morgan Palmer, 18, one of the top amateurs in the country, is a past scholarship winner. Now that an increasing number of girls is becoming involved in the game, Foxhills also runs girls-only lessons taught by Diane Bernard, a tour professional.

WHAT TO WEAR

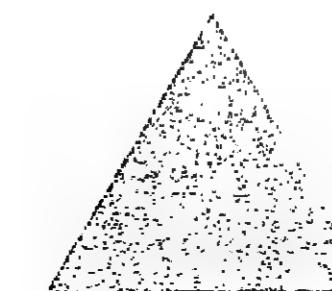
WHEN Sylvester Stallone first played at Foxhills the Hollywood actor-writer played with a junior putter and won his first game in a long while. Manufacturers such as Dunlop and Spalding are beginning to tap into the junior market, but still have some way to go.

Cutting down a full-sized club is an alternative, but it

will affect the weight. Youngsters are advised to master all the shots with one club, before graduating to a full set. A brand new putter will cost about £12, shoes £29, a bag £49, a trolley £29. A bag with five clubs will cost about £89. To complete the image, Pooh Bear and Mini Mouse cover heads cost £13.50 each.



It's a game of two halves.



Why stop at two?

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TAPPEN
a. Norwegian gruel
b. A bear plug
c. A poltergeist

TREY
a. A brown-and-white pony
b. A three
c. To tremble

Answers on page 43

WORD WATCHING

By Raymond Keene

UTRUM
a. A will
b. A small cymbal
c. Coarse dredge of rum

TINTO
a. A parrot
b. A half-caste
c. Red wine

Solution on page 43

WORD WATCHING

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Torre — Ed. Lasker, Chicago 1926. In this curious opening position the unusual juxtaposition of the queens gives Black the opportunity for a powerful tactic. Can you see it?

Solution on page 43

Charles Lobb, looking the part, is the first to arrive at the course as part of a youth movement that is taking a different sporting direction

Bass BEST SELLING PREMIUM CASK ALE SINCE 1777

THE TIMES RAIL OFFER FROM £5 TO £20 RETURN

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Simply collect 10 differently numbered tokens, eight from *The Times* and two from *The Sunday Times*. A total of 21 tokens will be printed: 18 will be published in *The Times* between today and Saturday May 31. Three tokens will appear in *The Sunday Times*, one token appeared yesterday and two more will appear on Sunday May 18 and Sunday May

token appeared yesterday and two more will appear on Sunday May 18 and Sunday May 25. The first *Times* token is below. Applications must be received by first post on June 15, 1997. Only one application per return ticket per reader will be allowed. Unaccompanied children cannot take advantage of this offer. Each application on behalf of a child over five must have a separate application form and 10 differently numbered tokens. Within 21 days you will receive from Virgin Trains a fulfilment guide with your personal number, details of how to book your ticket and full terms and conditions.

HOW TO BOOK

You can book your return ticket for a Standard accommodation seat (no upgrade is available with this offer) by calling the Virgin Trains' booking line which will be provided in your guide. Bookings must be made at least seven days before your intended date of travel. Your tickets will be sent to you by post.

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The sooner you collect your tokens, the sooner you can book.
See *The Times* every day this week for more tokens.

THE TIMES



trains

SEE THE TIMES EVERYDAY THIS WEEK FOR MORE VIRGIN TRAINS TOKENS

TERMS AND CONDITIONS 1. Readers must collect a total of 10 differently numbered tokens: eight from *The Times* and two from *The Sunday Times*. 2. A total of 21 tokens will be printed. Eighteen consecutively numbered tokens will be published in *The Times*, one each weekday, from today to Saturday, May 31. Three consecutively numbered tokens will be published in *The Sunday Times*, one each Sunday between May 11 and May 25, 1997. 3. Applications will only be accepted on an official application form as printed in *The Times* on Saturday, May 17, 24 and Tuesday May 27 and in *The Sunday Times* on May 18 and 25, 1997. One completed application form with 10 differently numbered tokens is required per ticket. 4. Photocopies, defaced, damaged, altered, illegible or incorrectly filled in applications, tokens or vouchers will not be accepted, nor will they be acknowledged. 5. Applications must be sent to: *Times Newspapers/Virgin Trains Offer*, PO Box 3000, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE5 2BL, by the closing date of June 15, 1997. Applications to any other address will not be accepted. 6. CrossCountry Trains Ltd and West Coast Trains Ltd, trading as Virgin Trains, and *Times Newspapers Ltd*, cannot accept responsibility for applications, tokens, fulfilment packs lost or damaged in the post. Allow up to 21 days for delivery of your fulfilment pack from Virgin Trains. 7. Applicants will be sent a Virgin Trains fulfilment guide with a personal number which must be used to book a special Virgin Trains Standard return ticket for travel from and to any station serviced by Virgin Trains as illustrated on the route map and with the 400000 circle. 8. A maximum of four

bookings/seats can be booked at any one time on the booking line with four separate personal numbers. Bookings must be made a minimum of seven days prior to the intended date of travel. The offer applies to new bookings only. Previous bookings made prior to this offer cannot be exchanged or refunded for any ticket acquired under this offer. All bookings must be made on the Virgin TrainLine. Lines will be open 8am-10pm seven days a week. 8. Tickets allocated will be for Standard accommodation only. No upgrade is available with this offer. 10. Children under five go FREE. Unaccompanied children are not allowed to travel on this offer. Accompanied children over five will require a completed application form with 10 differently numbered tokens. 11. Each ticket requires one completed application form and 10 differently numbered tokens. One household may apply for up to four tickets in one envelope provided there are four application forms and four sets of 10 differently numbered tokens. Multiple and bulk applications from trade or social groups will not be accepted. 12. The offer is not available to employees of West Coast Trains Ltd, CrossCountry Trains Ltd or Times Newspapers Ltd. 13. All passengers must book outward and return seat reservations when they purchase their ticket. No break in your journey is allowed. You are liable to pay up to the full standard fare if you do not have a valid ticket. 14. Promotional travel is only valid on Virgin Trains services. Travel on any other operator's rail service will be charged at the appropriate fare for the journey. 15. When calling the Virgin Trains booking line, readers must verify their claim by quoting the personal number printed in their fulfilment guide.

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CHANGING TIMES

Removal of AIDS drugs courier would breach Convention

D v United Kingdom
(Case No 146/1995/67/964).

Before R. Ryssdal, President and Judges C. Russin, A. Spielemann, J. De Meyer, Sir John Firebrace, A. B. Baka, F. Kiris, U. Lührus and J. Casadevall.

Registrar H. Penfold

Deputy Registrar P. J. Mahoney

Judgment May 2.

Removing a convicted drug courier in the advanced stages of AIDS in his country of origin, St. Kitts, would expose him to inhuman or degrading treatment in breach of article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

The applicant, D, was born in St. Kitts and appeared to have lived there all of his life. He arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, on January 21, 1995.

He was refused leave to enter and issued with a removal order, having been found on arrival to be in possession of a substantial quantity of cocaine with a street value of about £120,000.

However, rather than being removed he was arrested and charged with illegally importing a controlled drug into the United Kingdom. He was convicted by a London court in April 1995 and sentenced to six years imprisonment.

In August 1994 the applicant was diagnosed in prison as HIV positive and suffering from AIDS. The infection appeared to have been contracted some time before his arrival in the United Kingdom.

He began to receive treatment for the illness. His condition had gradually deteriorated and he was in the advanced stages of the disease.

A medical report dated June 13, 1996 indicated that his prognosis was very poor and that his life

expectancy was limited to eight to twelve months on present treatment.

On January 20, 1996, a few days before his release on licence, the immigration authorities ordered his removal to St. Kitts. On February 2, the applicant applied unsuccessfully to the High Court for judicial review of the Chief Immigration Officer's refusal to allow him to remain in the United Kingdom on compassionate grounds.

On February 15, the Court of Appeal dismissed his renewed application for leave to apply for judicial review of the decision on the ground that the immigration authorities had properly treated him as an application for leave to enter.

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held as follows:

I Alleged violation of article 3

The Court recalled at the outset that contracting states had the right, as a matter of well-established international law and subject to their treaty obligations, including the Human Rights Convention, to control the entry, residence and stay of aliens.

It also noted the gravity of the offence which was committed by the applicant and was acutely aware of the problems confronting contracting states in their efforts to combat the harm caused to their citizens through the supply of drugs from abroad.

The court contracting states might justifiably administer severe sanctions to drug traffickers, including expulsion of alien drug couriers like the applicant, the absolute nature of the prohibition committed in article 3 nevertheless had to be respected when a state had resorted to expansionism.

Applying its established case law to the facts, the Court noted that the guarantees contained in article 3 applied irrespective of the gravity of the offence which the applicant had committed and as he had been within the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom since January 21, 1993 the authorities had to secure to him those guarantees regardless of whether he had ever entered the country in the technical sense.

The court noted that the principle had so far been applied in contexts in which the risk to the individual of being subjected to any of the forms of treatment prescribed by article 3 emanated from intentionally inflicted acts of the public authorities in the receiving country or from those of non-state bodies in that country when the authorities there were unable

to afford him appropriate protection.

However, given the fundamental importance of article 3 in the Convention system, the Court had to reserve to itself sufficient flexibility to address the application of that article in other contexts which might arise.

It could not therefore be prevented from scrutinising an applicant's claim under article 3 where the source of the risk of proscribed treatment in the receiving country lay in factors which could not engage either directly or indirectly the responsibility of the public authorities of that country, or which, taken alone, did not in themselves infringe the standards of that article.

To limit the application of article 3 in that manner would be to undermine the absolute character of its protection. However, in any such case the Court had to adjust all the circumstances surrounding the case to a rigorous scrutiny, especially the applicant's personal situation in the compelling case.

Against that background the Court considered whether in view of the applicant's current medical condition and the situation which awaited him in St. Kitts, there would be a real risk that his removal to that country would breach the most distressing circumstances and thus to inhuman treatment contrary to article 3.

In reaching that conclusion the court emphasised that aliens who had served their prison sentences and were subject to expulsion could not in principle claim any entitlement to remain on the territory of a contracting state in order to continue to benefit from medical, social or other forms of assistance provided by a charitable organisation.

The authorities had assumed responsibility for treating his condition since August 1994 and he

had relied on *In re Coventry*, *decid* [1960] Ch 401.

His Lordship said that those submissions 'ounded in the same point: as was put in argument by Lord Justice Morris, the reason why mutual wills were to take effect an agreement was made, was that without it the property of the second testator was not bound, whereas a secret trust, concerned only the property of a person in the position of the first testator.

For the doctrine to apply there had to be a contract at law, see *Date* (*at 308*) and the case cited in Clever at 10. There was specific evidence as to the testators' mutual intentions at the time the wills were made, not in the present case.

As regards the claim under the 1975 Act, Mr Sunmucks contended, inter alia, no provision should have been made for Gary as he was capable of earning his own living that there was no special circumstance in the case to justify any moral claim and that the judge below showed enthusiasm between the principles of family provision and those relating to mutual wills.

His Lordship disagreed. The principles by which the court proceeded were clear. There was in the present case the plainest possible basis for concluding that, whereas Dennis and Joan had not made a clear agreement for mutual wills, none the less Joan's understanding of the effect of her will was such as to impose on Dennis a moral obligation, once Gary's need for reasonable financial provision was established.

The judge below had evidently to involve his personal reputation that was not only sensible but that the survivor should not prevent that happening if he or she thought fit.

There was no presumption that a present plan would be immutable in future. A key feature of the concept of mutual wills was the inviolability of the mutual intentions.

Not only had they to be binding when made, but the testators had to have undertaken, and so had to be bound, not to change their intentions after the death of the first testator.

Although when Dennis and Joan executed their wills they wanted Gary to inherit the combined estates, there was no express agreement not to revoke the wills, nor could any such agreement be

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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

TODAY
Interims: API, Diploma, London & Overseas, Finnis; DCC: Economic statistics: UK April producer price index, US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills, EU finance ministers meeting in Strasbourg (to May 16), Bank of France discount Treasury bill auction, Bank of France money market tender.

TOMORROW
Interims: Allied Domecq, Ashurst Goldthorpe, BCI, BT Group, Freepages Group, General Accident, Holman & Marchant, Sadwick Group, Simms; Finnis: Time Products, Voyager European, Westbury, Economic statistics: British Retail Consortium retail sales survey, Bank of England to give details of gilt sales, US April retail sales, US April retail sales, US Treasury announces size of short-term T-bills, French April provisional consumer prices index, API weekly oil supply statistics.

WEDNESDAY
Interims: Bank of Ireland, Imperial Tobacco Group, Sago Group, Scottish Electronics, Scottish Radio, Tropicana, Finnis: Cable and Wireless, Environmental Investment Company, Sago; Economic statistics: UK April unemployment, UK March average earnings and unit wage costs, French February current account, US April producer prices index, US March business inventories.

THURSDAY
Interims: Burton Group, Capital Radio, Compass Group, Concourse, Grand, Metropolitan, Hanson, Hart & Robertson, Meld (1), Majordom Investments, Tropicana, Finnis: British Telecom, ScottishPower; Economic statistics: UK April retail prices index.

FRIDAY
Interims: Chrysalis Group, Overseas Investment, Finnis: Albany Investment Trust, Fine Art Developments, Ocean Wilson Holdings.

SUNDAY TIMES
The Sunday Times: Buy HSBC, Allied Domecq, Tropicana, El Group, Sunderland, Self-Safeway, Wiggins; Hold: Rugby Estates, The Sunday Telegraph; Buy: Ladbrokes, Bryant, Queensborough Hids, Harvey Nichols, Maud; Self: Chemring, Commercial Union, Independent on Sunday; Buy: PRG, Self Eddie Hids, Observer; Buy: ICI; Hold: BTR, Sainsbury, Mail on Sunday; Buy: Yorklyde, Hold: Electronic Boutique.

ENTERTAINMENT

Outlook after Labour's Bank surprise

Reform of the Bank of England was widely expected during the lifetime of a Labour government, but there was little indication in the election campaign that Gordon Brown would move quite so quickly. The announcement on Tuesday that Eddie George will take control of monetary policy was not surprisingly, favourably received by the gilt market. The removal of political considerations from the interest rate decision was always going to be viewed positively; further encouragement was provided by confirmation that the existing target to keep underlying inflation at or below 2.5 per cent will be maintained. Ten-year-yields, which traded just below 7.5 per cent in the aftermath of Labour's landslide election win, rallied down to 7 per cent after the change in monetary arrangements.

So far, so good for gilts. The risk is, of course, that an operationally independent central bank is more likely to act hawkishly on interest rates if it sees any threat of inflation. It is clear, for example, from minutes of past "Ken and Eddie" meetings that base rates would have been raised some months

ago if Eddie George had been able to dictate monetary policy. This, coupled with Labour's determination to move speedily in key policy areas, suggests that the mini-Budget due to be held in June could produce a thorough review of fiscal options. Most significantly, Gordon Brown will be painfully aware that failure to address the structural aspect of the budget deficit will heighten the probability of Mr George using his new power at the earliest opportunity.

In view of this, it now seems unlikely that the Chancellor's financial statement will be limited to a windfall tax, the "welfare to work" strategy and a cut in VAT on fuel. Although much speculation has surrounded the future of the dividend tax credit, Gordon Brown may see the personal sector as the more appropriate area on which to focus, given the economic climate. Abolishing Miras and the married couple's allowance could, for example, easily be justified on both political and economic grounds and raise more than £5 billion for the Treasury.

Overseas investors are bound to be impressed by new Labour's assertiveness. The in-

situational change brings the UK that much closer to fulfilling the criteria for EMU. Though joining in 1999 has been ruled unlikely, even so, the credibility that overseas investors attach to policy-making now ought to be raised. Expectations of higher interest rates

much further, but, by the same token, it is unlikely to fail far. A combination of modestly higher interest rates, a tightening of fiscal policy and a stable pound should help to suppress any build-up of inflationary pressures, and this should be positive for the gilt market.

International developments are always critical to the gilt market and, in this respect, the US bond market remains vital to the interest rate background. After month upon month of negotiations, the idea of bringing the US budget deficit into balance in the medium term now finally lies within reach. Several more months of thrashing out details of a balanced budget lie ahead, but, ultimately, the deal will be beneficial for all bond markets. In the US, inflationary pressures are barely evident. What role the stronger dollar has played in subduing inflation is hard to say. However, at this late stage in the cycle, when the economy moving towards full employment, it is natural to expect inflationary pressures to be mounting. A strong dollar can only serve to keep these pressures at bay. The Federal Reserve is still likely to

raise interest rates to slow the economy down. Although the bond market will surely fret over the prospect, bond market fundamentals — low and stable inflation and a rapidly shrinking budget deficit relative to GDP — mean that yields should not rise much.

Given this reassuring backdrop, can gilt yields fall further or is all the good news in the price? The gilt market is technically overbought and there is bound to be some short-term profit-taking. The more pertinent point, given the likely aspiration of joining EMU eventually, is how much more the differential between yields on gilts and German bonds can narrow. The experience of the formerly higher-yielding European bond markets suggests that the differential could narrow by at least another 20 basis points. However, with yields on German bonds expected to rise in response to a pick-up in economic growth as the year progresses, this narrowing in differential effectively means that ten-year gilt yields could end the year at 7 per cent.

MIKE LENHOFF AND SIMON RUBINSOHN Capel-Cure Myers



George new power

have already lifted sterling's trade-weighted index nearly 20 per cent in the past year. Of course, if the Government chooses to lean on fiscal policy to restrain demand, that will lessen the need for aggressive action on interest rates. So, sterling is unlikely to rise

much further, but, by the same token, it is unlikely to fall far. A combination of modestly higher interest rates, a tightening of fiscal policy and a stable pound should help to suppress any build-up of inflationary pressures, and this should be positive for the gilt market.

International developments

Dow tipped to buy ICI Australia

By MARTIN BARROW

ICI AUSTRALIA is braced for a full takeover bid for the company, with Dow Chemical Co of America tipped as a possible bidder. The board of the Australian company is also considering a partial share buyback.

ICI Australia has been locked in talks with its financial advisers to plan the next move after a decision by Britain's ICI to sell its 62.4 per cent stake in the business, was announced last week.

The British company could raise about £1.1 billion by selling the stake, helping to offset the cost of the £5 billion purchase of Unilever's speciality chemicals business.

The disposal is expected to take place in July and the shares could be sold in more than one tranche. However, the board of ICI Australia believes there is a realistic chance a single buyer may emerge with a takeover bid for the whole company.

Warren Haynes, managing director of ICI Australia, yesterday said it was possible an overseas interest could buy the whole company. "I suppose I shouldn't discount that as a possibility."

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.17	2.21	0.260	0.264
Austria Sch	2.18	2.18	0.265	0.277
Belgium Fr	54.42	54.79	2.50	2.50
Canada \$	1.367	2.181	11.88	11.88
Cyprus Cyp	0.74	0.74	267.50	268.50
Denmark Kr	10.56	10.56	0.15	0.15
Finland Mkr	8.78	8.83	245.00	244.50
France Fr	8.65	8.78	13.15	12.15
Germany Dm	4.90	2.88	2.12	2.12
Hong Kong \$	13.25	12.12	225.750	212.222
Iceland Ikr	1.11	1.07	1.714	1.580
India R	5.27	5.12	1.00	1.00
Japan Yen	207.75	208.50	194.00	194.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank. Other rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading Friday.

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Luxembourg	LU Fr	6164	65%	5040	2025	2171
Netherlands	Fl	778	50%	428	174	181
Spain	PT Fr	75200	20%	21454	12500	12743
Sweden	SE Fr	800	40%	160	65	70
West of Europe	£	474	40%	227	116.5	120

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CHANGING TIMES

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THE PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY 10016. MEMBER FDIC. LIFE INSURANCE POLICY WILL BE REQUIRED. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

TAPPEN

(b) The plug by which the rectum of a bear is closed during hibernation. The Swedish and Norwegian word for a plug. "The tappen is almost entirely composed of pine-leaves, and various substances which the bear scratches out of the ants' nests."

TREY

(b) The three at dice or cards. In dice, that side of the die that is marked with three pips or spots. Also a throw which turns up this side. From the Old French and Anglo-French *treis* three. "There's luck under the deuce but none under the trey."

UTRUM

(a) A writ authorising the holding of an assize to decide the status of property. Usually in *assize of utrum*. From the Latin neuter singular of *uter* which or whether. "Assize of Utrum may not be brought by a vicar for a small pension paid to a religious house."

TINTO

(c) Spanish rough red wine, whence *Tinto* as the English name. From *tinto* the Spanish for tinted, a blackish wine in Spain. Also the name of a French wine. And our Portuguese meaning: "Tinto" is a red Madeira wine, wanting the high aroma of the white sorts; and, when old, resembling tawny port."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Qc3 wins material, e.g. 2 Qd6 c6 or 2 dxc3 Qxe5.

Government to give guidance on millennium bug

By Fraser Nelson

THE Government's computer agency will today launch a guide aimed at solving the millennium computer problem. It says the guide could save British industry millions of pounds in fees to computer consultancies.

The guide, compiled by the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency, will be a DIY manual to help businesses to draw up a plan to correct the bug. The CCTA says the guide could save a thousand of pounds for businesses which would otherwise

be making their first steps by seeking professional advice.

The CCTA said the guide will help managers to decide if they have a problem and to identify which parts of the business may be affected. It will also advise on millennium pitfalls: spending money on correcting computer systems which can be ignored or fixing systems due for replacement.

The CCTA emphasised that its manual is not official Government policy but a manual designed for the pub-

Gas complaints past their peak

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

COMPLAINTS against British Gas, arguably the country's least popular utility, appear to have peaked, the Gas Consumers' Council reports today.

Latest figures show a fall in complaints against British Gas Services and British Gas Energy Centres in the three months to March 31. British Gas Trading, which deals with billing and gas supply, enjoyed a 7 per cent fall in complaints in March, although complaints rose 22 per cent over the full quarter, the council says.

The shift has been cautiously welcomed as a turning point by the council and British Gas, which has seen complaint levels soar in the past three years. In 1996 complaints against British Gas Trading rose by 103 per cent, to 34,211.

The figures are still not good but compared with the problems there have been it is an improvement. It's an indication that maybe they have turned the corner in terms of improving customer services but, make no mistake, they've still got a long way to go."

A key problem was that customers were having to make several phone calls to answer queries rather than having them dealt with a "one-stop-shop" system, he said.

The council blamed the huge volume of complaints last year on the inadequacy of a new computer billing system which sent out scores of incorrect bills and threatened some customers with disconnection. The problem is believed to have cost the company £80 million.

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INTERNET SERVICE. YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO INDULGE IT.



Shining lights: Nicholas Easton, left, and his father Leslie, who founded Versatile, are taking their stained glass company to the main market this summer through a placing to raise £800,000. The two will become paper millionaires after the flotation, sharing a stake worth £3.2 million. Their company exports its col-

oured transfers to customers in 11 countries, and last returned profits of £163,000. It will be valued at £4.5 million with dealings beginning on Wednesday.

Shell set to weather protest vote

By Carl Montieth

BRITAIN'S largest fund management groups are mainly ignoring calls from environmental lobbyists to discomfort Shell by supporting a church-sponsored resolution at Wednesday's annual meeting.

The resolution calls on Shell to improve its environmental policies and to conduct an external audit on their imple-

mentation. In spite of attempts by lobbyists to mobilise pension fund trustees, most fund management companies have chosen to accept Shell's argument that directors should determine matters of policy without interference.

However, one leading fund management group was not satisfied with the Shell position and has chosen to abstain while sending a written

warning to the company. A spokesman said: "Shell have moved some way but we don't believe they have moved far enough. We have sent them a yellow card to say that if this issue comes up again we will not support them."

Shell has met with leading shareholders, who have been extensively lobbied by Pirc, the consultancy, as well as environmental and human rights lobby groups such as Amnesty International.

One fund manager rejected the notion that environmental policy should be subject to shareholder vote: "If you think the company is badly run, you should replace the board."

Last week, the Prudential indicated that it would support the board, voting some 3 per cent of the stock of Shell Transport & Trading.

Pharmacia & Upjohn names chief

Pharmacia & Upjohn, the Swedish-US drugs group with headquarters in London, yesterday named Fred Hassan as its new president and chief executive. He succeeds John Zahrsic, who resigned abruptly in January.

Mr Hassan, 51, is executive vice-president of American Home Products. He has spent 26 years in the industry, including 17 years with Sandoz in America. He said that P&U faced "some clear challenges, but I am convinced of our strong fundamentals — global reach, a powerful R&D base and a solid new-product pipeline."

Mr Hassan, a US citizen of Pakistani origin, was educated at Imperial College, London, and Harvard.

Export barriers

An array of trade barriers, from tariffs and local taxes to complex Customs procedures and even bribery, are hampering Britain's small export firms, a survey claims today. The British Chambers of Commerce found that 54 per cent of the smaller exporters questioned had come up against obstacles inside and outside the European Union that affected their ability to compete. More focus and resources to support the businesses was needed, it said.

Tobacco float

Callahan, the UK tobacco subsidiary of American Brands, is expected to give details on Wednesday of its £2.2 billion London stock market flotation. Callahan controls 39 per cent of the British tobacco market, owning the Benson & Hedges and Silk Cut brands. The shares are expected to be priced around 320p.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT INDEX																										
1997	High	Low	Mkt cap (million)	Price	per share	Wkly +/−	Ytd %	P/E	1997	High	Low	Mkt cap (million)	Price	per share	Wkly +/−	Ytd %	P/E	1997	High	Low	Mkt cap (million)	Price	per share	Wkly +/−	Ytd %	P/E
1897	100%	100%	10.30 AFA Systems	100%	+ 5	1.1	10.2	247	205	5.41 First Public	22%	8.1	20%	1.74 Northern Star	20%	+ 1	1.74 Northern Star	20%	4.52 Northern Star	20%	1.74 Northern Star	20%	1.74 Northern Star	20%	4.52 Northern Star	20%
153%	100%	20.05 AIG Corp	140%	...	1.1	10.2	144	111	3.31 First Tech	21%	11.4	100%	1.15 Hunting Horns	100%	+ 1	1.15 Hunting Horns	100%	4.52 Hunting Horns	100%	1.15 Hunting Horns	100%	4.52 Hunting Horns	100%	1.15 Hunting Horns	100%	
422%	100%	10.00 AID Int'l	307%	...	1.1	10.2	203	199	48.00 Fitness First	174%	...	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	+ 1	1.15 Giro	100%	4.52 Giro	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	4.52 Giro	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	
47%	100%	10.00 Airtel	100%	...	1.1	10.2	202	197	48.00 Fitness First	174%	...	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	+ 1	1.15 Giro	100%	4.52 Giro	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	4.52 Giro	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	
164%	100%	25.51 Airtel	100%	...	1.1	10.2	227	227	4.72 PIR Holdings	25%	...	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	+ 1	1.15 Giro	100%	4.52 Giro	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	4.52 Giro	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	
100%	100%	3.21 Airtel Imaging	100%	...	1.1	10.2	195	195	13.00 First Financial	125%	...	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	+ 1	1.15 Giro	100%	4.52 Giro	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	4.52 Giro	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	
200%	100%	2.00 Airtel	100%	...	1.1	10.2	195	195	13.00 First Financial	125%	...	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	+ 1	1.15 Giro	100%	4.52 Giro	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	4.52 Giro	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	
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44%	100%	4.09 Airtel	100%	...	1.1	10.2	195	195	13.00 First Financial	125%	...	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	+ 1	1.15 Giro	100%	4.52 Giro	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	4.52 Giro	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	
117%	100%	14.09 Airtel & Ild	100%	...	1.1	10.2	195	195	13.00 First Financial	125%	...	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	+ 1	1.15 Giro	100%	4.52 Giro	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	4.52 Giro	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	
117%	100%	2.00 Airtel	100%	...	1.1	10.2	195	195	13.00 First Financial	125%	...	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	+ 1	1.15 Giro	100%	4.52 Giro	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	4.52 Giro	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	
117%	100%	2.16 Airtel	100%	...	1.1	10.2	195	195	13.00 First Financial	125%	...	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	+ 1	1.15 Giro	100%	4.52 Giro	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	4.52 Giro	100%	1.15 Giro	100%	
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117%	100%	2.16 Airtel	100%	...	1.1	10.2	195	195	13.00 First Financial	125%	...	100														



Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas dance to the Miramax tune in *The English Patient*. The film was funded by the Hollywood company

British film-makers vie to get lottery cash in the can

Eric Reguly on the competition for £156m in Arts Council funding up for grabs in Cannes this week

The Cannes Film Festival is a dizzy blur of parties, stars trying to avoid publicity and wannabes performing outrageous acts to achieve the opposite. The intended purpose of the festival — watching, judging and buying new movies — appears an afterthought.

Fun-loving as they are, the festival's British contingent, comprising hundreds of top producers, directors, actors, agents, writers and financiers, came equipped with a different agenda this year. They are in Cannes to learn whether they will be given the opportunity to loosen Hollywood's grip on the market.

On Thursday, at 4pm, Charles Denton, chairman of the Arts Council's Lottery Film Advisory Panel, will announce the recipients of as much as £156 million in lottery funds that will be used to set up British film studios. Chris Smith, the new Secretary of State for National Heritage, is expected to be at his side.

Some 37 British consortiums are bidding for the funds; a maximum of four will win, each taking £39 million. These four, it is hoped, will form the backbone of a genuine film industry, one that will keep the jobs and profits in Britain instead of exporting them to America. Janice Hughes, managing director of Spectrum Strategy Consultants, adviser to the Studio Pictures consortium, said: "The whole idea is to develop a commercial business here. In the past, it has been a cottage industry and there is an anti-film attitude in the City."

The consensus is that the Brits are great at the creative bits of film-making and lousy at the business end. Take *The English Patient*, winner of nine Oscars. The film had a British director and British actors, but it was Miramax, part of the Disney/ABC group, that will reap the profits. Miramax stepped in after the producers failed to attract British backing.

The scenario is repeated on an alarming scale every year. Almost all of the independent film companies in Britain are small, undercapitalised and have enormous problems finding distributors. In 1996, British

ish films took in only £16 million, or 3.4 per cent of the £440 million in total domestic box office sales. *Trainspotting* and *Brassed Off* were the only British films in the top 40 list. American films — *Independence Day*, *Evita* and *Toy Story*, among them — occupied the rest of the top slots.

True, 1996 was a bad year but British films never reach double-digit box office shares even in the best years. In 1994, swelled by *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, British films reported domestic box office sales of about £33 million, or 9 per cent of the total.

A typical Hollywood studio can develop, finance, produce and distribute a film. Distribution, domestically and internationally, is the most important element by far. A distributor is the film's sales agent. Without a distributor, the film is as good as dead. Imagine Ford or Vauxhall without dealer networks.

George Burger, executive vice-president of Alliance Communications, the Canadian film company that will act as Studio Pictures' international distributor if the consortium wins the lottery money, said: "Distribution is the sun-

gle biggest source of revenue for a picture, and international sales are critical."

Distribution plays another crucial role. Financing is much easier to obtain if a film's distribution is guaranteed before its release. More often than not, British films do not have distributors and are starved for financing. To get out of the hole, they sell the international rights to their products for a pittance.

If they are really desperate, they will sell the national distribution and video rights as well. The film-maker, as a result, will receive no benefit if the film succeeds. Mr Denton, who is the former head of BBC drama, said: "In these instances you haven't got a business. All you're doing is giving away your assets."

It is unsurprising that big-name distributors, many foreign-owned, are the common element in the lottery bids that seem to have the best chance of striking gold at Cannes. Studio Pictures, whose backers include Ewan McGregor — Renton in *Trainspotting* — has recruited Alliance for Canadian and international sales, and Electric Pictures for domestic distribution.

The Film Consortium, which includes Richard Branson's Virgin Cinemas, has signed up Rank for domestic distribution and The Sales Company in the foreign market. UK Filmworks, whose point man is Mike Newell, director of *Four Weddings*, has lined up Columbia TriStar for domestic distribution, and Summit Entertainment for Canada elsewhere.

The Double Negative consortium brings together Working Title Films, producer of *Four Weddings*, and PolyGram, one of the world's largest film distributors. The backers of the Partners in Film bid include Ewan John's Rocker Pictures, the first independent distribution company, and the Guinness Mahon merchant bank.

The Arts Council has been attacked by some all-British consortiums for allowing foreign partners such as Alliance, PolyGram and Columbia TriStar to take part in the lottery race. But the council believes their presence is inevitable and not unwelcome. "We have to recognise that this is an international business,"

Mr Denton said. "Every consortium has to make British films and not export any benefits outside of the UK."

The formation of consortiums will end the practice of individual film companies competing with each other for scarce funding. The lottery money will help to finance a slate of films. The Arts Council says that the new studios, well financed and ready to tackle every aspect of film-making, will lure British talent that would otherwise flee to Hollywood.

Profits from the films will be pumped back into the British industry, creating more job opportunities. Studio Pictures, for example, plans 50 films over six years if it wins lottery money. It intends to raise more than £3 for every lottery £1, raising the total film budget to about £180 million.

In time, the hope is that the new studios will grow to the point that they can break Hollywood's stranglehold on the domestic market and ensure that British films are part of the global viewing diet.

The Americans, of course, are more amused than threatened by the imminent launch of British studios. They note that the £39 million to be assigned to each winning consortium is barely enough to finance a single Hollywood blockbuster. The budget for 20th Century Fox's *Titanic*, for example, is rumoured to be \$180 million.

Jeffrey Berg, chairman of International Creative Management, of Beverly Hills, the world's largest talent agency, said: "This will help the British start a studio system, but it is something they should have done 20 years ago. Hollywood has such a head start."

Hollywood is not trembling with fear, but the consortiums are trembling with excitement. The novel use of lottery money will mark a sea change in the development of the British film industry. Mr Denton said: "What we intend to do is provide a structure for the industry and create studios that have continuity and are able to work across the whole range of film making."

There is no doubt the British will be hosting the most raucous parties at Cannes on Thursday.



Elton John: backing distribution project



MacGregor as Renton in *Trainspotting*

Melissa: Starts tonight 9.00

A tale of mystery, crime and passion — adapted by Alan Bleasdale from an original story by Francis Durbridge

4

Help for the technophobic

Computers Don't Bite: The Beginner's Guide
BBC2, 7.30pm

Carol Vorderman hosts a six-part series produced by the *Watchdog* team and aimed at anybody (and that probably means millions of us) who feels nervous about coming to grips with the computer age. Vorderman is joined by Adrian Chiles of *Working Lunch* and the *Watchdog* reporter, Andy Webb, and the emphasis is on the computer's everyday applications. Tonight, Vanessa Feltz who has never had a mobile phone or used the Internet tries both, and the flame-haired Anne McEvitt from *Home Front* uses a computer to redesign a couple's living room. Look out for a future programme for the Dorset vicar who improved his parish magazine with a desktop publishing kit and tips from *Cosmopolitan* magazine.

Melissa
Channel 4, 9.00pm

You could hardly find writers more different than Alan Bleasdale, author of disturbing social dramas such as *The Boys From the Blackstuff* and *GRH*, and Francis Durbridge, master of the urbane thriller. But Bleasdale is a Durbridge fan and *Melissa* is his re-working of Durbridge's 1962 BBC serial. It is more of a pastiche, with the first three episodes (of five) forming a prequel in the original story. Admirers of the Durbridge style may miss the rattling pace, the ingenious twists and the famous cliffhangers. There is not even much suspense, at least in the opening episode which charts the shipwreck romance of Jennifer Ehle's mesmerising Melissa and Tim Dutton's gallant war reporter. But there is a murder or three to remind us that this is a thriller and, perhaps, to signal more Durbridge-like things to come.

Tales From the Riverbank
BBC2, 9.30pm

"There's a trout out there... nice fish... might just catch it." Thus Geoffrey Palmer, in his lugubrious staccato style, launching a six-part series on angling. Palmer, it emerges, is a dedicated fisherman, though he seems destined not to catch anything. Perhaps this will provide the show with a running gag. *Tales From the Riverbank* calls itself a natural history, so as well



Geoffrey Palmer (BBC2, 9.30pm)

as hearing from anglers we are treated to exquisite underwater footage of what they are trying to land. The opening programme, though, is more about people than fish and attempts to express the singular attraction of an activity in which anticipation can be just as exciting as achievement. Among the enthusiasts featured is Bernard Venables of the Mr Crabtree books. He started fishing at the age of six and is still doing so in his 90th year.

Ruby Wax
BBC2, 11.15pm

Ruby Wax has practised her cheeky interviewing technique mainly on location, most famously in the home of the Duchess of York. For this new series of talk shows, going out three nights a week from Monday to Wednesday, she is based in the studio. It may cramp her style a little, but do not be put off. No more than with *Have I Got News For You* is it possible to say definitely who the guests will be, but the provisional list for the first week suggests that Wax is moving away from the usual run of showbusiness celebrities. Dame Muriel Spark, who rarely gives television interviews, is an intriguing candidate for the Wax treatment, as is another novelist, Janice Galloway. Marianne Faithfull, Eddie Izzard and John Simpson are also pencilled in, while the excitable Lucinda Lambton should provide a specially boisterous welcome.

Peter Waymark

RADIO GUIDE

The Monday Play: Pacific Dreams
Radio 4, 7.45pm

There is a strong impression of the autobiographical in this play by Godfrey Hamilton, though a conclusion is really only based on the fact that Hamilton moved from Britain to Hawaii in 1968, as does his central character, Hugh, in the play. With a drunken father and a recently terminally-ill mother, Hugh is entitled to be bitter about the state of Britain, even if his disillusion sounds extreme. Hugh is essentially looking for Mr Right, but the making of the play is in the sharp observation and the authenticity of the dialogue as Hugh's odyssey takes him to Honolulu via Arizona and Los Angeles. The casting of *The Monday Play* is always top class: Mark Bonnar as Hugh and Mark Binkley as Joe Shine here. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe and Roy Laid 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Radio 2 1.00 BBC Radio 4 4.00 David Attenborough 5.00 The Late View 6.00 Chorus 6.30 Radio 4 7.00 This Is Your Life 7.15 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee 7.30 Global Update 8.00 BBC English 10.45 Sport 11.30 *Coronibis* 12.30 *Coronibis* 1.30 *Seven Days* 1.45 Sport 2.00 *Newshour* 3.05 *Outlook* 3.30 *Touched with Fire* 4.05 *Good Relationship Guide* 4.05 *Sport* 4.15 *On Your Behalf* 4.30 *Tommy Vance* 4.45 *Business* 5.00 *British Today* 6.15 *World* 6.30 *Today* 6.45 *Business* 6.50 *News* 7.00 *Coronibis* 7.15 *Keep to the Path* 7.45 8.30 *Multirail* 9.00 *Newshour* 10.05 *Business* 10.15 *British Today* 10.30 *Coronibis* 11.00 *Cricket* 11.30 *Keep to the Path* 11.45 *British Today* 12.30 *Coronibis* 12.30 *Multirail* 1.20 *Keep to the Path* 1.45 *British Today* 2.30 *Seven Days* 2.45 *A Private View* 3.30 *On Screen* 4.05 *Business* 4.15 *Sport* 4.30 *Europe Today*

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour, subbing November 6.30 8.00 *Mark Radcliffe and Roy Laid* 8.00 *Simon Mayo* 12.00 *Radio 2* 1.00 *BBC Radio 4* 4.00 *David Attenborough* 5.00 *The Late View* 6.00 *Chorus* 6.30 *Radio 4* 7.00 *This Is Your Life* 7.15 *Business* 7.30 *7.30* 8.00 *Global Update* 8.30 *BBC English* 9.45 *Sport* 11.30 *Coronibis* 12.30 *Coronibis* 1.30 *Seven Days* 1.45 *Sport* 2.00 *Newshour* 3.05 *Outlook* 3.30 *Touched with Fire* 4.05 *Good Relationship Guide* 4.05 *Sport* 4.15 *On Your Behalf* 4.30 *Tommy Vance* 4.45 *Business* 5.00 *British Today* 6.15 *World* 6.30 *Today* 6.45 *Business* 6.50 *News* 7.00 *Coronibis* 7.15 *Keep to the Path* 7.45 8.30 *Multirail* 9.00 *Newshour* 10.05 *Business* 10.15 *British Today* 10.30 *Coronibis* 11.00 *Cricket* 11.30 *Keep to the Path* 11.45 *British Today* 12.30 *Coronibis* 12.30 *Multirail* 1.20 *Keep to the Path* 1.45 *British Today* 2.30 *Seven Days* 2.45 *A Private View* 3.30 *On Screen* 4.05 *Business* 4.15 *Sport* 4.30 *Europe Today*

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Mark Grattis 7.00 Miles Reid 8.00 Hell of Fame Hour 10.00 Harry Kelly 10.00pm *Lunchtime Concerto*, *Concerto*, arr Benjamin (Obra Concerto in G minor) 11.00 Jamie Clegg 5.00 Jamie Clegg 7.00 *Newshour* 7.20 *Sonata* 8.00 *Singapore* 9.00 *Classical Evening Concert*, *Brahms* (Academic Festival Overture), *Leipzig* (Youn Pin (Metamorphosis); *Transcendental*), *Wieniawski* (Violin Concerto in A minor) 10.00 *Violin Concerto* in G minor) 11.00 Michael Mapple 2.00am *Lunchtime Concerto* (y

VIRGIN RADIO

8.30am Russ 'n' Jono 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 10.00 Nicky Homa 8.00 Paul Coyle (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forest 2.00am Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am *On Air*, with Andrew McGregor; *Includes* (Guitar Concerto in G minor) 1.00 *Grindal* (Op. 39); *Prelude and Fugue*, Op. 87 No. 7 in G; *St. Crispin* (Overture); *Elgar* (Pomp and Circumstances March No. 4 in G); *Dohnanyi* (Violin Concerto No. 2 in C minor)

9.00am *Morning Colours*, with Penny Gore. Penny Gore continues her survey of British music, this week including Wagner (Overture *Tannhäuser*); Schumann (Märchenstücke, Op. 16); Beethoven (Grand Sextet in F major)

10.00 *Musical Encounters*, with Fiona Talkington. Includes Tchaikovsky (Romeo and Juliet); Kodaly (Haydn); Stravinsky (Andante); Bartók (Folk); Debussy (La Mer); Prokofiev (Violin Concerto No. 1); Dello (Cello Concerto); Vivaldi (Vivaldi); Bizet (Dame aux Mouches); Beethoven (Hom Sonata No. 8 in C); Albrechtsberger (Concerto in E for Violin and Mandolin)

12.00 *Concerto* (with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, live from St. John's, Smith Square, London), *Violin Concerto*, arr Benjamin (Obra Concerto in G minor) 1.00 *David Attenborough* 2.00 *Coronibis* 2.30 *Seven Days* 3.00 *Coronibis* 3.30 *Seven Days* 4.00 *David Attenborough* 4.30 *Seven Days* 5.00 *Coronibis* 5.30 *Seven Days* 6.00 *David Attenborough* 6.30 *Seven Days* 7.00 *Coronibis* 7.30 *Seven Days* 8.00 *Coronibis* 8.30 *Seven Days* 9.00 *Coronibis* 9.30 *Seven Days* 10.00 *Coronibis* 10.30 *Seven Days* 11.00 *Coronibis* 11.30 *Seven Days* 12.00 *Coronibis* 1.00 *Seven Days* 1.30 *Coronibis* 2.00 *Seven Days* 2.30 *Coronibis* 3.00 *Seven Days* 3.30 *Coronibis* 4.00 *Seven Days* 4.30 *Coronibis* 5.00 *Seven Days* 5.30 *Coronibis* 6.00 *Seven Days* 6.30 *Coronibis* 7.00 *Seven Days* 7.30 *Coronibis* 8.00 *Seven Days* 8.30 *Coronibis* 9.00 *Seven Days* 9.30 *Coronibis* 10.00 *Seven Days* 10.30 *Coronibis* 11.00 *Seven Days* 11.30 *Coronibis* 12.00 *Seven Days* 1

Degradation, death, destruction: such fun

Definitely not a good week-end for culture, I'm afraid. Nobody turned up to see the Bolshoi clancie, the Venice Opera House stood in shoulder-ruins and the new, big-budget drama from the BBC... refused to be the full of comedians. A disaster for culture vultures then, but for sofa-philes it proved something of a treat.

Last night's *Dancing for Dollars* (Channel 4) was a special delight, suffering from none of the drawbacks that normally afflict baller documentaries, such as, er, ballet. This — to embrace the vernacular — was the story of a cultural cock-up, how the Bolshoi Baller went to Las Vegas and discovered that nobody wanted to see them. It was almost as much fun as *The House*, the wickedly intrusive series about the Royal Opera House.

"We sold 44,000 tickets today," fumed Ed Martin, a man surely destined to walk away with

the prize for the world's most unlikely ballet impresario. Only a handful of delicious minutes earlier he had been all-American enthusiasm: "Everyone wants to see greatness — whether it's Superbow, the Olympics or baller." A loyal band of investors from deepest, darkest Oklahoma were right behind him, to the tune of \$1.8 million. They didn't know much about ballet but they had been to a couple of great ice-skating shows. "If it was anything like that we thought we would surely enjoy it," said one elderly woman who gamely pitched up to watch her savings disappear in a flurry of furious subtiles.

"Where are the instruments?" "Where is the orchestra pit?" "Where is the set?" asked a succession of cross-looking Russians. Meanwhile, back in the booking office, Martin was still trying to find a miracle. "If I don't pay them, the little shits will

not perform in Los Angeles." Opinion was split as to what precisely the problem was. As archive footage of earlier sell-out successes compounded the damage, the managing director of the Bolshoi blamed the decadence of Las Vegas: "Sitting down all day, pressing buttons — that's not culture, it's degradation." Martin, by contrast, was fast coming to the conclusion that the American public were far more discerning than even he had given them credit for. They knew the Bolshoi was not what it had been. "People believe this is the bullish Bolshoi, not the real deal."

The local stage manager was, diplomatically, somewhere in between. "We had no class before, we've got a little bit now." His recipe for commercial success? "If there was a nice baller, we wouldn't have a theatre big enough." Hold that thought, be-

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

cause somehow it leads us to *Josephine's Creek* (BBC1, Saturday).

It took up where *Crinie Traveller* left off (it's possible that the respective heroines even share the same mansion block), as an off-beat drama considered sufficiently undemanding to get 11 million of us through Saturday night. But unlike its predecessor, it had a certainty of purpose and a sureness of execution that means, in

the looking-glass world of television ratings, it probably won't. So, as insurance, the producers made this feature-length, opening episode rather rude. The fact that I thought it was rather good is, of course, entirely unrelated.

The victim (it was Saturday night, there had to be a victim) was Hedley Shale (Colin Baker) an artist who conveniently specialised in the female nude, which meant the production could be littered with eye-catching caravans and glamorous models. Someone had shot him and if I tell you that the woman who did it wore only a silk blouse and a revolver that rather captures the lubricious style of Marcus Mortimer's direction. A kiss was not a greeting unless it was accompanied by a fondled bosom, a revolver not a revolver unless it was fired by toes attached to a very, very long pair of legs.

Now, all this enjoyable but gratuitous titillation may have

been to make up for the essentially untiring nature of our central couple fit was Saturday night, there had to be a central couple. Caroline Quentin and Alan Davies may be many things but conventionally sexy they are not, and for some time it looked like we might get through an enjoyable whodunit without any of that unresolved sexual tension stuff at all. But then David Renwick's otherwise-inspired typewriter ran away with him and, before we knew it, our couple were enjoying a significant moment over the levitation board.

Until last night, my sum total of knowledge about La Fenice, Venice, was that it was burnt down last year, possibly by the Mafia. That remained the sum total of my knowledge for about 23 minutes of the distinctly unrevealing *The Works: A Death in Venice* (BBC2), when the building contractors — allegedly anxious to avoid fines for late completion — were added to the list of suspects. What else? A violinist played hauntingly amid the no-longer smouldering ruins — but we philistines knew that was going to happen.

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5.00am Business Breakfast (48183)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7) (93251)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (7) (313376)

9.20 Style Challenge (8577929)

9.45 Kirov (722551)

10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (88541)

11.00 News (7) and weather (777386)

11.05 The Great Escape Magazine focusing on the real-life experiences of holiday-makers (7130386)

11.35 Change That is Glasgow (6341780)

12.00 News (7) and weather (830657)

12.05pm Call My Bluff (8048763)

12.35 Going for a Song A new series of the antique puzzle game (9487683)

1.00 News (7) and weather (66368)

1.30 Regional News (8672358)

1.40 The Weather Show (9992763)

1.45 Neighbours (7) (40812305)

2.10 Quirky (6651367)

2.55 Through the Keyhole with Paul Ross and Lorraine Chase (8310580)

3.20 Stepper: The Style Recreates Victorian interior design (8454831)

3.30 Playdays (22737331) 4.00 Monstar Cafe (6794725) 4.05 The New Yogi Bear Show (6633479) 4.10 Casper (4157015) 4.35 50/50 (522860) 5.05 Newround (7) (4084857) 5.10 Star Peter (7) (8325551)

5.35 Neighbours (7) (203655)

6.00 News (7) and weather (235)

6.30 Regional News (367)

7.00 Aunty's TV Favourites Griff Rhys Jones discusses his career, Jimmy Hill looks forward to the FA Cup Final, Tony Blackburn pays homage to H-Dave, a visit with Sir Jimmy Savile (7) (5880)

7.30 Here and Now investigation into the unacceptable level of violence faced by nursing staff in hospital accident and emergency departments, and a profile of Britain's only remaining birthhouse keeper as he prepares to leave the profession and start his (7) (251)

8.00 EastEnders: Blanche is shocked when she pays Joe a visit and Grant tells Lorraine of his plans to play happy families (7) (2380)

8.30 Only Fools and Horses One of Del's old flames turns up out of the blue. Will the flames of love reignite or will Rodney and Grandad extinguish any passion? (7) (1016)

9.00 News (7) and weather (2357)

9.30 Playborders: White Torture Michael Robinson asks who is to blame for the water crisis and challenges those who run the industry to defend their record (7) (424585)

10.10 Aunty (1992) with Eileen Hawke and Vincent Spano A fun, fast-paced drama about a group of South American youngsters who survive a plane crash in the Andes and endure unpredictable hardships while the search party is called off. Directed by Frank Marshall (1021513)

12.10 Aunty Without Leaves (1992) Craig McLachlan stars as a soldier who goes AWOL during the Second World War. Directed by John Lang (228281)

1.15pm Weather (4848110)

2.00pm VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme are Video PlusCodes, numbers preceded by a V are for your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Two in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (7), PlusCode (7) and Video PlusProgramme (7) are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

6.00am Open University: Images of Education (2222331) 6.25 Rich Mathematics: Activities (7) (8488268)

6.50 Play and the Social World (7) (882251) 7.15 News (3654541) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (7) (878893) 7.55 Blue Peter (7) (1168251) 8.20 Bump (3175282) 8.25 Open A Door (7) (8389102) 8.35 Peccocks (7) (3267248) 9.00 The Weather (7) (972929)

9.30 101 (7) (251251)

10.30 This Morning (2293218)

12.20pm Regional News (7) (839541)

12.30 News (7) and weather (975560)

12.35 The Pulse (7) (4508651)

1.30 Danielle Steel's Palomino with Lee Horvay, Lindsay Frost and Eve Marie Saint. Romantic drama about a successful female photographer (3021638)

2.45 Real Stand and Deliver (422503)

2.45 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (8901874)

3.10 Film: The Lost Hours (6816771)

3.10 News (7) and weather (235)

3.30 Going for a Song A new series of the antique puzzle game (9487683)

4.00 News (7) and weather (66368)

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7.30 Night School (7) (251251)

8.00 Regional News (7) (839305)

8.30 The West Story A focus on local life (833388)

9.00 Coronation Street Alina gets herself a new job (7) (4747)

9.00 World in Action A report on the vigilante mob who are taking the law into their own hands to control paedophiles in their midst (7) (7676)

9.30 The Freddie Starr Show Slapstick comedy and sketches with the unpredictable funnyman (7) (6183)

10.00 Coronation Street Alina gets herself a new job (7) (4747)

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11.00 The Listeners (172299)

11.15 Swift Justice (160299)

12.00am Meridian Focus (2655858)

5.00 Freescreen (43023)

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7.00 Wish You Were Here? Featuring Kenya, the medieval German town of Hamburg and Lübeck, and the Abaco Islands in the Bahamas (7) (8026)

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ROGER BOOTLE 45

Is Labour aiming for an economic triple whammy?

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

مكتبة الأحوال

BUSINESS

MONDAY MAY 12 1997

FILM DRAMA 46

Why the Brits are coming to Cannes



Pound faces pressure as Bank steers away from higher rates

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE POUND is expected to face a bumpy ride again this week after Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, hinted that the Bank was satisfied with last week's quarter-point rise in base rate.

The Bank issues its quarterly inflation bulletin tomorrow — its first since it won operational independence from the new Government. It is expected to say there is no immediate need to raise rates further.

Sterling came under pressure last week after rumours that the Government may re-enter the European exchange-rate mechanism at DM250 and a sustained sell-off of the US dollar on foreign exchanges. The pound fell eight pence from a post-ERM high of DM232 to finish the week at DM247.

The Treasury has fiercely denied any plans to rejoin the ERM, but the market believes that Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, would be more comfort-

able with a level closer to DM250. Mr George also welcomed the recent fall in the pound, although he made clear that the Bank has no intention of intervening on the foreign exchanges. He added that a lower pound could open the door for further interest rate rises later in the year.

Mr George believes that sterling's strength, based on its safe haven status in Europe and the fact that the UK economy is running ahead of the rest of Europe and Japan, could soon evaporate. The dollar,

which the pound has tracked closely in recent months, is also expected to fall, with expectations of US interest rate rises receding and rates tipped to rise in Japan. Fxex analysis calculate that the pound is still overvalued by about 10 per cent.

Labour's stock market honeymoon, which has seen the FT-SE 100 hit six consecutive new highs, may also end after suggestions yesterday that the planned mini-Budget may be more radical than expected. Mr Brown has also signalled

that he is preparing a big overhaul of the corporate taxation system. Advance corporation tax (ACT) is likely to be the main target, although there is growing concern that corporation tax could also be raised. Analysts believe that abolition of ACT could knock about 5 per cent off share prices as pension funds move out of high-dividend stocks into other investments.

Mr Brown is in Brussels today for the first meeting of European finance ministers since the election. Most of the

important single currency business will be held over to the Amsterdam summit next month, but markets believe that the meeting will give Mr Brown a chance to show his pro-European credentials.

Mr Brown is expected to sign two technical agreements, which had been held up by the previous Conservative Government, giving legal status to the euro. His support for a deal ensuring continuity of financial contracts under a single currency would please the City.

Labour ready to shake up jobless count

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government is to launch an urgent review of Britain's unemployment figures, which is likely to result in radical changes to the way that they are compiled and calculated.

The review is intended to restore credibility to key figures, which are widely regarded as compromised. One minister said: "We have to get these figures right. So we must set a new benchmark."

The shake-up will be announced on Wednesday with the latest unemployment figures. These are expected to show a further fall from their current level of 1.7 million. Ministers accept the move, when completed, could lead to a nominal increase in unemployment under Labour.

In opposition, Labour was highly critical of the unemployment figures, insisting that the previous Government's 30-plus changes, since 1979, to the way that they are produced means they do not give a true picture of the number of people out of work.

While ministers recognise that rectifying what they have called the "fiddled" figures on unemployment will be politically difficult, they are determined to restore public credibility to what even independent ob-

servers believe has become a debased set of statistics.

Ministers recognise that, by removing the compilation of the unemployment figures from the old Department of Employment and making them the responsibility of the Government's Office for National Statistics (ONS), their standing has been improved because, in part, they have been removed from political interference.

In redistributing some employment responsibilities around Whitehall, including charging the Department of Trade and Industry rather than the Department for Education and Employment with the duty of introducing a national minimum wage, Labour strategists rejected any idea of bringing responsibility for the unemployment figures back into the Education and Employment Department.

The rapid but thoroughgoing review of the jobless totals will draw on work carried out by the ONS, as well as the independent Royal Statistical Society. Studies by both, as well as a range of other analyses, recognise the drawbacks in using the current figures on the number of people out of work and claiming benefit as the principal measure of unemployment.

While ministers recognise that rectifying what they have called the "fiddled" figures on unemployment will be politically difficult, they are determined to restore public credibility to what even independent ob-

servers believe has become a debased set of statistics.

The new Government's review will look at the range of unemployment figures published in the United States, which measures joblessness in half a dozen ways, depending on the definition used to say who is without work. Similar measures are now published in Britain by the independent Employment Policy Institute.

The review is unlikely to recommend the abolition of the monthly count of claimants, which is a necessary administrative check on the level of benefit being paid out. But it will examine closely the group of people excluded from claiming benefit, as well as the administrative targets set for the Employment Service to reject automatically a number of people making efforts to claim benefit.

The review of the unemployment figures is in line with the Government's wider intention of putting the ONS on a different footing, with a commitment to create a fully independent National Statistical Service.

■ Pay settlements in the private sector are nudging upwards. Incomes Data Services, the wage research company, says today, with three-quarters of firms now paying rises of 3 to 4 per cent. □ A new study published today by Warwick University says that Europe's working time directive could be a "blessing in disguise" for British industry if it encourages employers in the United Kingdom to take more seriously the issue of time at work.



Helen Liddell, right, with Dawn Primarolo, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, is calling in pension chiefs

Minister carpets pension chiefs

By ROBERT MILLER

A TREASURY minister has summoned the leaders of Britain's life and pensions companies to demand a prompt resolution of the £4 billion personal pensions mis-selling scandal.

After only a week in office,

executives that efforts to compensate an estimated 550,000 victims, who include miners, nurses, teachers and police officers, have been "pathetic".

The minister, who cannot

name or fine mis-sellers, will say that the way in which the mis-selling scandal has

been tackled will affect the shape of new financial services legislation which is to be drawn up next year. The legislation will also reflect how watchdogs handle future disciplinary problems.

Only 7,000 of more than

half a million victims have so far been compensated for having been wrongly advised to transfer out of generous occupational or company pension schemes — or not join in the first place — in favour of personal pension plans.

Before meeting pension mis-sellers, Ms Liddell will hold talks with Colette Bowe, chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), which polices firms that sell direct to the public and is overseeing the bulk of the pensions mis-selling review.

Since January, Ms Bowe

has held individual meetings

with 25 of the life and pension

companies and independent financial advisers at

which she has expressed con-

cern at the lack of progress in

compensating victims. The

industry bill for compensation

and costs associated with the

review is expected to top

£4 billion.

Ms Bowe has already de-

manded firms to explain their

business plan on how it intends

to make "substantial progress"

by the end of the year.

Shares in Halifax head for £6 launch

By GAVIN LIMSDEN

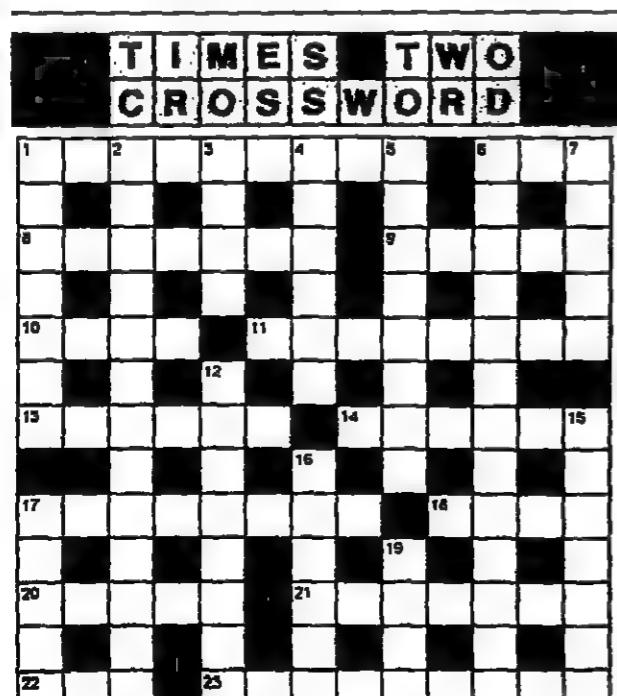
HALIFAX shares could start trading at £6 next month, about 140p more than originally forecast. Anticipating a shortage of stock in the converting building society, institutional investors are being forced to up their bids ahead of an auction to be held at the end of the month, analysts say.

This would give the society's 8.5 million members a minimum standard distribution worth £1.200.

Alliance & Leicester's share price has risen 100p since its flotation on April 21 as institutional investors fail to get the stock they did not get at auction. Although 26.9 per cent of A&L shares went under the hammer, Mercury Asset Management walked away with the lion's share and is now believed to hold an 8 per cent stake in the new bank on behalf of clients.

James Johnson, banking analyst at Credit Lyonnais, said: "Market-makers don't want to be caught short and driving each other up. There is also the suggestion that there will be less Halifax stock available, perhaps only 20 per cent, because of the variable distribution of shares. People with big accounts will get a bigger allocation and will be less inclined to sell straightforward."

The buoyant market and the strength of the financial sector means shares will probably soar from this level. Shares in the Woolwich Building Society, which floats in July, could start trading at 250p, compared with the society's original estimate of 180p, netting members £1.25.



No 1091

ACROSS

1 Beauty queen (4,5)

6 Imm (3)

9 Tensely repressed (slang) (7)

10 Unsullied; to wash (5)

11 The next in line (4)

12 Wave menacingly (8)

13 Powerful (6)

14 At the back of (6)

17 Computer-printed document (4,4)

18 Personal accessory; some honey (4)

20 Muslim decree (5)

21 Tennyson poet; Joyce book (7)

22 Throw; bashful (3)

23 With keen vision (5-4)

DOWN

1 Somerset —, author/playwright (7)

2 Comfortably placed (7,6)

3 Carry on; earnings (4)

4 Go back; cease work (6)

5 Wine-holder (3)

6 Most steeply; lastly (13)

7 Clump; collection (5)

12 Enclosure of stakes (5)

15 Adulterated (7)

16 (Trap) suddenly closed; Hopkins' poetic rhythm (6)

17 Blows heavily; penalties at draughts (5)

19 Use keyboard (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1090

ACROSS: 1 Rashi, 3 Barbados, 8 Skin, 9 Coq au vin, 11 My Fair Lady, 14 Rarity, 15 Valeur, 17 Belongings, 20 Apricot, 21 Four, 22 Problems, 23 True.

DOWN: 1 Rosemary, 2 Spitfire, 4 Apollo, 5 By and large, 6 Dove, 7 Sung, 10 Fit the bill, 12 Downpour, 13 Preserve, 16 Dove, 18 Carp, 19 Zero.

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Bonn's springtime for euro is overshadowed by cloud of sceptics

There is no mistaking German glee about Tony Blair. For many months the Bonn line was that he would represent a welcome change, but only in tone, not in substance. Now the talk is of deals about to be clinched, not of mood music.

It is clear that Helmut Kohl's office deliberately played down its real, very high expectations of a Labour Government, lest over excitement from Bonn should backfire in the election campaign. Normally sober officials are throwing open their Rhine-facing windows and bursting into song: spring has sprung for the euro.

Ordinary Germans remain suspicious. That is beginning to worry the European Commission, which is sponsoring a rolling series of "European Weeks" throughout Germany. No expense is being spared to stamp out German scepticism. In Berlin last week the euro was accepted as the coin of the realm by more than 50 supermarkets, boutiques and restaurants. More than 1.3 million pseudo-euros were minted — with the Brandenburg Gate on the reverse — special cash tills were installed, while menus and price lists were posted in marks and euros. A McDonald's hamburger

with chips and ice cream cost four euros, or eight marks. After some initial excitement, Berliners became bored with the toy money and stuck to the minutes of the Bundesrat debate in 1871 read like a blueprint for the present euro arguments. But unlike other attempts — the Latin currency union of 1865 and the Scandinavian union of 1872 — the unified German mark worked well (the coins were minted on French gold, paid as reparations by the loser of the Franco-Prussian War).

Bismarck's mark succeeded because political integration accompanied, or preceded, the monetary merger every step of the way. German politicians today draw a similar conclusion when they mutter darkly of Maastricht 3 and Maastricht 4 treaties, should Amsterdam produce

only meagre results on political integration.

Opinion polls record a stable sceptical constituency: between 55 per cent and 60 per cent of Germans declare against the euro. Will they ever come round? Zealots believe it is only a matter of time and propaganda identifying the euro with success.

Why was the euro more important than jobs? How could monetary union prevent war on the Continent? Why wasn't Europe more democratic? Why was Turkey excluded from the European club? One boy had picked oranges in Greece for two weeks, then seen them thrown on a rubbish dump in the name of an absurd agri-

cultural policy. These youths will be first-time voters in the general election next year, and they will be hard-headed in their choices. A political pleading for a delay in introducing the euro, and a youth job-creation scheme, would scoop up these votes.

The federal idealism of the Kohl generation has evaporated and the Chancellor has tailored his rhetoric. But he may have shifted too late. Increasingly, Germans insist on a pragmatic approach to the union: to young Germans, Herr Kohl's Europe seems to be looking backwards and federalists are visitors from a distant planet.

INSIDE



Roger
Boyes

GERMANY

Voters direct their anger at politics of an arrogant elite

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

WITH just a fortnight to go before French voters begin electing a new parliament, one institution has become a key focus for popular anger at the country's aloof, technocratic political elite.

The Ecole Nationale d'Administration — better known as ENA, the post-graduate training-ground which produces so many of the country's top politicians, business leaders and civil servants — is once again under attack as a scapegoat for France's ills and a powerful symbol of widespread disenchantment with the political process.

Since the election campaign began, numerous candidates have opened fire on ENA, its elitism and *les énarques*, its hugely influential products. In Paris alone, three politicians are standing for the Organisation Against the ENA System party (OCSENA).

One Gaullist MP fighting for re-election, Jean-Michel Fourgous, has called for the abolition of the grandest of France's *grandes écoles*, the administrative club, intellectually competent but economically archaic, politically irresponsible and socially cut off from the people".

During his presidential campaign just over two years ago, Jacques Chirac thun-

dered against the ENA network, calling it "an omnipotent caste" divorced from reality, more talented in flattery than decision-making".

But M Chirac, it should be noted, is the country's most prominent ENA graduate, while his Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, has come to represent the *énarque* par-

along with the former Socialist Prime Ministers Laurent Fabius and Michel Rocard.

The cynicism rife in all parts of the French electorate is due, in part, to the perception that the election will make little impact on the influential old-boy network and that, in the words of OCSENA, "the senior administration has taken over French politics".

That view has been heightened by the low level of political debate, compounding the belief that a posse of professional politicians is running the election over the heads of the population, with scant regard for voters' genuine concerns and offering little to choose between them.

That impression was starkly reinforced by the exchange of "open letters" between the principal political players last week. First M Chirac offered his opinions in a newspaper article; then M Jospin replied in another; then M Juppé chimped in. For all the impact on the electorate, they might have been bureaucrats exchanging memos.

The principal issue of this election, the future of the single European currency, has been barely addressed so far. M Chirac called the snap election precisely to push ahead with deficit-reduction

excellence — highly intelligent, academically impeccable but distant, uncompromising and arrogant. Two of the front-runners to replace him, the parliamentary Speaker, Philippe Séguin, and the former Prime Minister, Edouard Balladur, are also members of the ENA club. No inclusion, confined to the Right. Lionel Jospin, the leader of the Socialist Party, is also a graduate.

During his presidential campaign just over two years ago, Jacques Chirac thun-



Lionel Jospin, the French Socialist leader, pauses to taste cherries during a weekend campaign break in Paris.

and the EMU project, but campaigning on that platform is a sure vote-loser.

M Jospin, on the other hand, has raised questions about the single currency, but cannot risk openly opposing it.

As the economic commentator, Alain Minc, observed last week: "It is all very hypocritical here in France."

Faced with a line-up of

politicians whose policies and pedigrees are often all but indistinguishable and an election campaign enlivened only by sniping within the alliances on left and right, much of the electorate has taken refuge in boredom and apathy.

The latest poll, published yesterday by *Le Journal du Dimanche*, showed that the centre-right coalition had

polled ahead again after a flurry of surveys suggesting that the Left might be on track for an upset victory. An IFOP poll predicted 41 per cent for the combined Right and 38 per cent for the left-wing alliance, translating into 328-335 seats for the Centre-Right and 193-227 for the Left.

But perhaps most significantly, nearly 30 per cent of

those polled had not made up their minds. "As soon as one of the great political families goes forward, it is stopped in its tracks," said columnist Alain Genestar in *Le Journal du Dimanche*. "The French people are expressing their lack of enthusiasm for a win by either camp."

William Rees-Mogg, page 20

FRENCH ELECTIONS

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Police fear wider network of Venice militants

Rome: Italian police issued a warning yesterday that the Venetian separatists who occupied the Campanile (bell tower) at St Mark's Square on Friday were not "isolated amateurs" but part of a wider network (Richard Owen writes).

Police said other members of a militant group seeking "independence" for Venice and the Veneto region had threatened to carry out further acts of terrorism. *La Repubblica*, which with

other Italian newspapers devoted six pages on Saturday to the attack and again yesterday, said in a front-page editorial that, although the assault on the Campanile by eight self-styled Venetian commandos smacked of buffoonery, it reflected a wider demand for local autonomy. "The Italian state must nip this threat in the bud by pushing through federalist reforms to give the regions greater powers," the paper said.

Yesterday voters went to the polls in 80 towns and provinces in a second round of local elections, with control of key northern towns such as Milan, Turin and Trieste at stake. Umberto Bossi, the leader of the separatist Northern League — which has denied having any links with the group of Venetian militants — urged his followers to boycott the voting and "go to the mountains" for the day instead.

Palermo court drama mars opera reopening

FROM FRANCESCO BONGARRE IN PALERMO AND RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AFTER last-minute restoration work, the wraps come off Palermo's partially renovated opera house today following a 23-year closure, with the Teatro Massimo echoing to Verdi's *Nabucco* — the last work played there before it closed for repairs in January 1974. For Palermo the gala reopening is a symbol of hope and revival as the city emerges from the grip of the Mafia.

But right-wing Sicilian politicians from Forza Italia and the Alleanza Nazionale accused Leoluca Orlando, the popular anti-Mafia Mayor of Palermo, of staging the spectacle prematurely from accusations that he mismanaged opera restoration funds as Mayor in the 1980s. Signor Orlando faces re-election in the autumn.

The Teatro Massimo will not be able to stage a full opera for at least another year and is confining itself to concerts. Today's opening concert is by the Berlin Philharmonic, conducted by Claudio Abbado. Franco Zeffirelli, the film director and a senator for Sicily, faces re-election in the autumn.

The fact that it has taken nearly a quarter of a century to reopen is seen as testimony to the bureaucracy and corruption which has plagued Sicily despite periodic attempts to clean up the system.

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'There have been times when I've felt the pressure of who my father is'

Jason Connery hopes that his latest film role, as Macbeth, will finally free him from comparisons with 007. Interview by Giles Whittell

There is a story from Jason Connery's reckless youth, to his credit, he does not mind retelling. Twelve years or so ago he was racing his motorbike in Sussex when, in the process of crashing, he banged his left testicle against his petrol tank.

He fractured a thumb and some ribs but, it was his *undercarriage* that alarmed the paramedics. Bleeding internally, his scrotum swelled to the size of a grapefruit. He was rushed to hospital in Brighton and undressed by a female nurse who promptly called in two more.

When the specialist arrived she announced an incision would have to be made to let the blood drain out, but not

before summoning ten medical students to behold the rare sight of acute testicular haemorrhage.

"You don't mind, do you, Mr Connery?" he remembers being told. He was on national television every week at the time as *Robin of Sherwood*: a familiar face, not to mention a famous name.

"No," he groaned. As it turned out, the incision was never made and the testicle gradually healed of its own accord. But Connery lost a job in a film produced by Michael Douglas because of it. When Connery withdrew, Douglas telephoned to ask why Connery never told him.

This son of Sean is stoic and very private, even if his privacy has to come before his

career. Such are his priorities as he arrives in London this week from Los Angeles for his first major British premiere, as the lead in a new film version of *Macbeth*. It is, he hopes, the role that will finally establish him as a major actor in his own right, independent and in demand beyond his father's lowering shadow.

As on the motorbike track, so in film: Connery Jr does not want for courage. He has taken on one of the great tragic roles in the language despite a curriculum vitae that boasts only one professional Shakespeare part before it: he once played Petruchio in *Taming of the Shrew* at Southampton. Otherwise, he has not touched the Bard since school.

"I did feel I was being

thrown in the deep end," he says. "But I was the one who threw myself there." He did not audition for the part, exactly. It was more a case of agreeing to team up again with his old mate Bob Carruthers of Cromwell Films:

which finances ultra-low budget films by selling 500 or so shares at \$500 per investor.

The innovative Carruthers system ensures that even if shareholders don't recoup their money they get invitations to the premiere and the chance of being an extra. The challenge for the director and his principals is to harness this amateur enthusiasm in the name of a professional film.

Connery prepared diligently. For one thing, he grew a full beard and very long hair. Hirsute was hip in 11th-century Scotland, but it also conveniently distinguishes the current Connery from the close-cropped, boy-next-door guise in which he played Robin Hood. (Reclining for the *Times* photographer beneath Whoopi Goldberg's cigar cabinet in a private humidor in Beverly Hills, he still seems intent on disguising his absurdly good looks. The *Macbeth* hairstyle has been replaced by a hedgehog cut and a Hollywood goatee.

Hair apart, how does one recreate a character already brought to the big screen by Orson Welles, Peter O'Toole, Sir Ian McKellen and Sir Anthony Hopkins? If Connery was ever daunted by the inevitable comparisons, he is not admitting it. Nor does he have much time for the pretensions of "method" acting so beloved of the more self-important American stars.

"A lot of actors work from the outside in, and a lot work from the inside out," he says. "I felt I was doing an amalgamation of both. You're standing there in costume. You've got the sword, you've got the beard, you feel like a warrior and there's a huge brooding castle in the background. It's uncomfortable. The chairs are all wood, the beds are horsehair. The mistake then is to ask yourself, 'How would this guy think?' What you have to say is, 'If I'm going to make that real I have to put some aspect of myself in it, and make it true for me'."

Whether this *Macbeth* will prove true for a mass audience is another matter. Like his father, Connery has a knack for flinty close-ups. He is also a match for Branagh when it comes to making Shakespeare's calmer passages work as both dialogue and poetry. But one result of the film's being shot entirely on location in Scotland is that its backdrops sometimes look like tourist-board stock footage. Overall, it is more endearing than terrifying, which may not be the accolade one seeks for the first true British thriller.

If Connery hopes *Macbeth* will prove his ticket to full-blown stardom, he is bidding

to be married last year, it was in the Candlelight Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas, recommended by Caine from fond experience. When they returned to London, their first stop was a party thrown for them by Caine at Langan's...

Sean Connery did not attend

the wedding. The guesstimate

was that it was a smash, Jason

Connery insists: it was his idea.

"We didn't tell Mum

[actress Diane Cilento, divorced 24

years ago] because

basically they can't stand each other," he says bluntly.

Secretive as the

wedding was, a year later Connery is taking it most seriously. The only

future role he is

certain of, he says, is "being a

husband and a father". It is

not far-fetched to suppose that

this earnest-sounding 34-year-

old has formed his views on

fatherhood from his exper-

ience of childhood, which in-

cluded attending a series of

expensive boarding schools

(Millfield, Gordonstoun) as

his own father bestrode the

world and topped most sex

symbol rankings. Still, he insists that most of what has been written about his alleged tricky relationship with the original 007 is myth.

"There have been times when I've felt the pressure of who my father is," he says, remembering his early days at Perth Rep, when the local paper would send a photographer round if he so much as rehearsed.

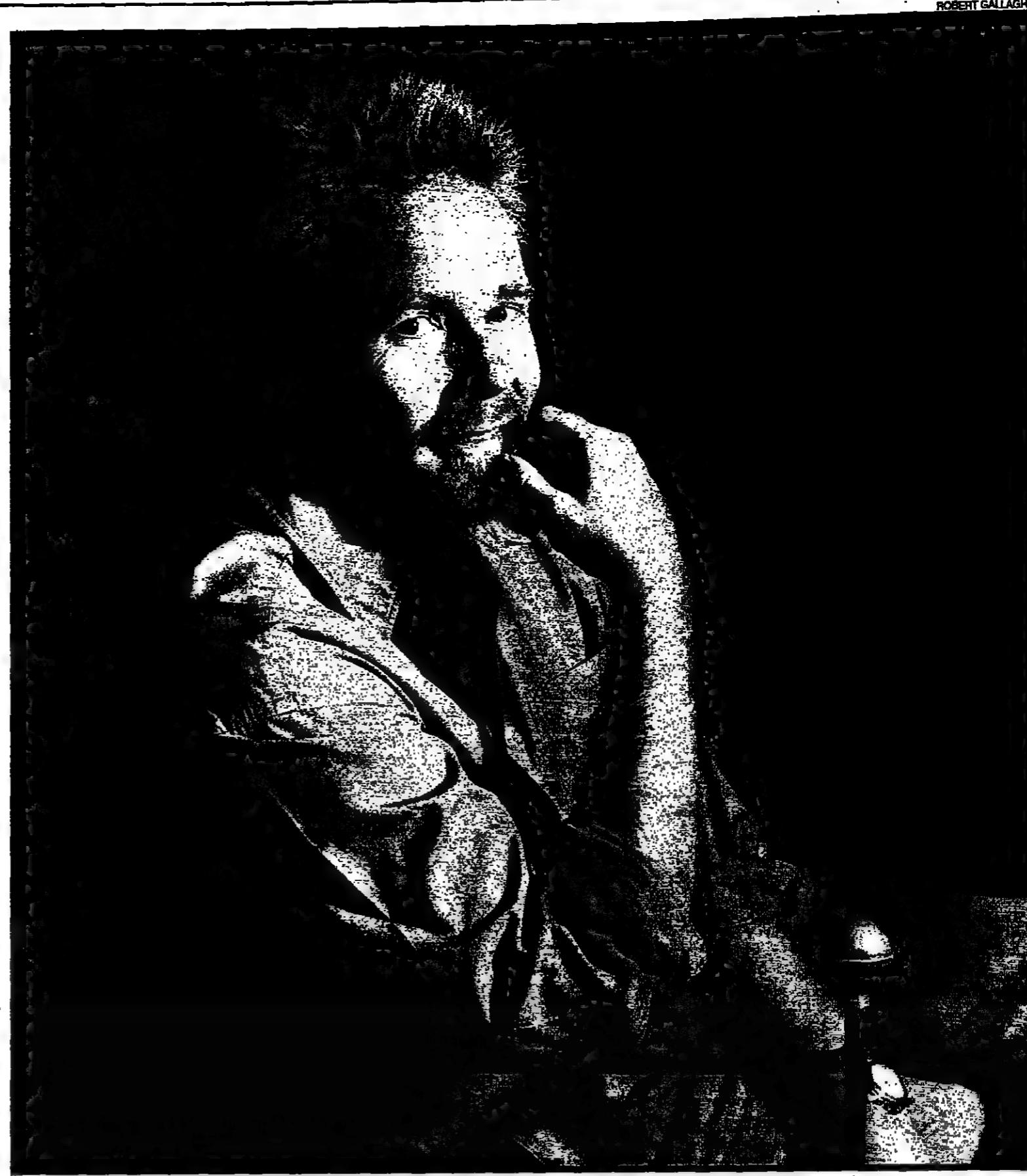
"You're under scrutiny much earlier. When you walk in the door people think, 'I wonder if he's going to look like his dad,' and sound like him or have a complex about him."

"But on the whole I feel as though it's not my problem. In fact it isn't a problem. I am Sean Connery's son."

"They will not be together at the premiere. Sean will be in New York accepting an award and Jason is ready for the next round of 'Father Snubs Son' hysteria. As it subsides, they will meet up, as they often do, for 18 quiet holes at Sunningdale or the Sherwood course in California."

"If I wanted it I could create it, that whole maelstrom of publicity," says junior. "But you have a choice. I think I learnt that from my father."

• *Macbeth* goes on release from today and nationwide in June



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The very valuable crisis



For modern women, midlife is the last remaining mystery, the age that feminism forgot. Pundits such as Germaine Greer and Gail Sheehy have depicted the years between 40 and 50 as an alarming decade, the adolescence of old age, full of uncontrollable and distressing hormonal disturbance. But in a remarkable book, the Cambridge academic Terri Apter challenges this view. Having interviewed 80 women over four years, she has become convinced that midlife holds the secret of a new kind of fulfilment. She talked to Grace Bradberry about her radical theory of midlife as a period of growth, reassessment and renewed confidence

Few psychological terms are flung about so casually as "midlife crisis", particularly where women are concerned. Naturally, we tend to assume that a large body of literature devoted to the subject must exist. In fact, the pain of fortysomething women has been virtually ignored.

Germaine Greer's *The Change* and Gail Sheehy's *The Silent Passage* made it, briefly, a hot topic — yet both discussed midlife largely in terms of the menopause.

Now Terri Apter, a social psychologist, is taking issue with Greer, arguing that midlife crisis is a definite psychological event. How one copes with it determines how one will cope with menopause, not the other way round.

Her criticism is not only that Greer places so much emphasis on the menopause, but also that she turns her own experiences into a universal truth. "There's a sleight of hand where she'll be talking about an experience of menopausal irritation and she doesn't say 'This is my experience.'

In Apter's own book, *Secret Paths: Women in the New Midlife*, she asserts that between 40 and 50 all women go through a period of anger and anxiety. Many are plagued by regret and a sense of failure that they did not manage to "have it all". The good news is that the majority emerge with a better idea of what they want and the determination to follow that through.

The book is not a personal one, and I rather expected Apter, 48, would prove the exception to her own rules. She is American — born in Chicago, although she has lived here since 1971 — and her stark biographical details conjure up a superwoman. She is a fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge, and has been

SECRET PATHS

Women in the new midlife

married for 22 years to David Newbury, Professor of Applied Economics at the university. By the time their two daughters, Miranda, 18, and Julia, 14, were born, Apter had published two novels. She then produced two academic works, one on working mothers, the other on the relationship between mothers and adolescent daughters.

One expects a blindingly together, verbally combative whirlwind. Yet the woman who appears is physically slight, with a girlish demeanour and a soft laugh.

By and large, the self-effacing Apter keeps herself out of this book. It soon emerges, however, that she was going through her own crisis while writing it. In one of the few personal passages, she recounts her feelings of inadequacy when visiting her friend Angela Harris, who not only has a family, but a high-powered job in London.

So do women like Angela have doubts? The message of the book is that they do —

although in this case Apter never discovered them. "She read the book, and she recognised herself," says Apter. "But she didn't say, 'Oh, no, no, I'm not like that at all', although she did admit she had been lucky. So you see, I'm not free from the ghost of the woman who has it all. And I don't think we ever can be."

Apter divided the interviewees into four broad categories, although some fitted more than one. Her first group is the "traditional" women. Having devoted themselves to their families, putting their careers to one side, their particular crisis was to wonder if a happy family was enough. Their alter-egos were the "innovative" women, who pursued tough career paths only to find they wanted to carry on in workplaces tailored to men.

Some of Apter's sample, restricted by their education, had settled for quite narrow lives. These "expensive" women wanted to break out of the groove. The fourth group, the "protestors", felt that they had been thrown into premature adulthood, perhaps by an early pregnancy.

Only one group is not represented — the very poor. A black American told Apter life was too much of a struggle for her to have any such luxurious thing as a crisis. "It was very helpful, if a bit hollowing, to be shown there was a barrier beyond which these things didn't make sense."

Inevitably, Apter's research also led her to question which category she might fall into. "I certainly always saw myself as innovative." But as she wrote the book, and faced up to her own regrets, she realised she had lapsed, slipping towards the "traditional". Occasional remarks would pull her up short: "Let's say if a 'family member' praised me for ironing his shirts well."

This is a revelation indeed. She laughs. "Objectively, I do fulfil traditional roles. But there's a sense that that isn't who I really am — even though I do those things." Apter, it transpires, has the same capacity for defusing herself as her case studies. And like them, she only faced up to the self-deception in her 40s. She also says that, like many of her generation, she believed that "having it all" would be relatively easy.

Just before she was 21, halfway through her second degree, she met her husband, David Newbury, was then a young don, and he was keen to marry. Apter was not: "I was really resisting traditional roles. I thought I was extremely independent and I really thought I'd won the women's revolution."

Instead, they moved into a house in Cambridge, marrying five years later in 1975. Ostensibly, Apter was pursuing her own goals, working at her novels. But in her 40s she was to look back and wonder how she could not have no-



The way in which women cope with their midlife crisis determines how they will cope with menopause

HULTON GETTY

TOMORROW



Your personal plan for surviving midlife.

Terri Apter's research led her to identify four distinct types of midlife crisis. Tomorrow she outlines these, and offers strategies for approaching the biggest turning-point in any woman's life

ARTS

Geoff Brown reviews the first films in competition at Cannes, including Bruce Willis in the sci-fi thriller, *The Fifth Element*

Pages 18-19

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ARTS
THE WEEK
AHEAD

■ MUSICAL
The £10 million Disney musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, comes to the Dominion
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ CONCERT
Have viola, will dazzle Yuri Bashmet displays his world-class virtuosity at the Barbican
RECITAL: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ THEATRE
At the National Theatre Anoushka Hille stars in a new production of *Marat/Sade*
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



■ POP
Supergrapey...
out their new thoughtful second on the British Academy crowd
GIG: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

What, given the will, the imagination and a bit of luck, could the Labour Party achieve for the arts in the next five years? A lot is expected because of Labour's track record. The Arts Council veered its way into the establishment during the Attlee years; and, with Harold Wilson's blessing, Jennie Lee jumped it into a national prominence which subsequent governments and ministers have built on but not — until the lottery — been able to transform to any similar degree. The time is surely right for a third major leap forward and Chris Smith seems the man to lead the charge.

There are at least three key areas in which the arts could change radically. First, and by far the most important, is the task of getting the message, the skills and the opportunities into schools. I'm aware that this has been said many times before — I have said it often myself. But not often enough for it to have had any real effect. It is time that we stopped being

pious and paying no more than lip service to this fundamental idea and addressed it vigorously for what it is — the surest method of putting down a foundation for active future participants and knowledgeable future audiences in an area of our national life bound to grow. Whatever this Government does or does not do, broadcasting, and culture in its widest sense including tourism, will increase in importance and wealth. It is now undeniable that the arts are not only good for trade but they are trade.

Every school should have access to instruments which would allow it to form an orchestra, classical or jazz. School libraries should be well resourced and tied in with town and city libraries. Theatre, opera, dance and classical music groups should tour intensively and continuously. Access to live perfor-

mances ought to be part of the curriculum. Writers, singers, painters, sculptors and architects must be encouraged in short-term residencies. Directors of film, television and video should be brought in for summer schools. A sort of nationwide arts apprenticeship scheme and one which draws in children from all backgrounds should and could be established.

This is not idealistic. It is completely realistic. If we are to make use of our world language and the advantage we have in many of the cultural areas already, then we simply have to attend properly and thoroughly to the roots of the matter. Many people of my generation and older still cannot help thinking of the arts as a luxury, a frippery or an extra. How many times do we have to repeat that more people work in the arts than work in the steel, coal

and car industries combined? How many times do we have to say that the culture/tourist industries bring in £16 billion a year and rising? We have lost many old heavy industries. There is every-
thing to be said for developing a new heavy cultural industry which will be increasingly important and on a global scale.

Hollywood is a clear example here. Its intensive development and cultivation of film and television has made it the second biggest industry in the USA and yet what is it? Just a bunch of pictures, movies, still often regarded as nothing more than an amusement arcade of the lowest common denominator. But Hollywood saw an opportunity and seized it.

Secondly, we have to make the final leap which leaves London a world city but gives real independence and clout to the other great cities in Britain. Glasgow has shown the way and even though it is now struggling, the institutions, the artists and the work in the city show what can be done. There are

similar stirrings elsewhere but a strategy of decentralisation and a willingness to charge local councils to release already available funds could push what is almost an experiment into a reality.

Culture could be one of the great engines of growth in these cities.

None of this needs massive extra funding. Any extra funding it 'does' need should come from the lottery. This is my third point. The lottery must be made to serve the arts and not, as at present, the arts serving the questionable and highly partial lottery. It must rapidly become much more flexible before the powers that be grow so ardent with its failure to fire properly that more money is moved out to health and other causes which would garner much more popular applause. The lottery has to shift itself away from its rigid regulations and not only hold onto but build up its stake for the arts. In this, a comparatively modest investment can have the most tremendous leverage.

This is not clowns-cuckoo-land. If anyone 50 years ago had prophesied the popularity enjoyed by today's museums and galleries, he would have been ignored or mocked. If in 30 years time we are major players on the world stage then it will only be because of decisions taken now in an area of life — culture — once thought marginal but increasingly more central to the health of people's daily lives. After all, more than 600,000 people work in the arts directly.

These are just three preliminary points. There is much more. There are great expectations for a Labour life. Given the mood of the country, the talent already in place and so widely available, and the enthusiasm and intelligence of a new arts team, then there is indeed everything to hope for.

LONDON THEATRE: A major Chekhov play revisited at the Old Vic; a minor Chekhov adapted on the fringe

The pain of laughter

The Seagull
Old Vic

— but it rejects cleverness for clarity, momentum and subtlety of thought and feeling. This gives Hall's cast the chance to bring texture to their roles: a challenge they accept, starting with Dominic West's Kostia, fumbling writer and lover, and Victoria Hamilton's Nina, a parallel failure in the emotional and artistic stakes.

West is a big, gangling figure whose wounded dog looks hide blundering rage, confused ambition and an intense sickness of heart. At first he contrasts strongly with Hamilton's Nina, who hurls herself into the role of the artless fake-freak, falling on her back in excitement at the prospect of meeting the novelist Trigorin. But shallowness vanishes when she reappears in the fourth-act rain. You don't doubt that her blushing, exhausted Nina, with her mewling, seagull-like sobs and bland past-caring shrugs, has traversed the emotional chasm.

Michael Pennington brings out the gulf between the superman of Nina's imagination and the real Trigorin, his propensity for sexual sharing

presenting us with a bashful, insecure creature who patronises Andrew Agachev's barber and gets his droopy body-language from a similarly nerdish source. His is a brave, interesting performance, but it leaves you asking why he exudes such sexual rapacity in Felicity Kendal's Arkadina, especially as he also looks older than he should and she makes no great effort to suggest the actress's terror of ageing.

Nevertheless, Kendal has superb moments, notably when a tiny argument about horses suddenly escalates into walls and screeches of dismay and you see the raw nerves under the blithe surface. But then Hall's production often shows you what people are feeling and failing to say, and not only where the major characters are concerned. Observe the minuscule flash of jealousy that crosses the face of Anna Carteret's Polina when Arkadina pays an off-hand compliment to David Yelland's Dorn, the beloved doctor who has raised studied indifference as an art form. That's truthful. That's Chekhov. That sums up the evening's quality.

BENEDICT
NIGHTINGALE



Felicity Kendal (Arkadina) and Michael Pennington (Trigorin) in Peter Hall's staging

All fear the Russian bore

The Duel
Lyric Studio,
Hammersmith

I WOULD have happily traded in the bottle of Russian vodka sent to me by News From Verona Theatre Company if Roger Ringrose and Tim Marchant's adaptation of Chekhov's "short" story had stopped after one, rather than three hours.

On a wooden seaside promenade framed by a neat square of pebble beach, there is a lazy clash of personalities between Ivan Layevsky, a dissolute young government official, and Von Koren, an efficient, hard-nosed zoologist. Their differences are hazily mapped over long lunches and picnics in a claustrophobic resort on the Black Sea. We run into clouds of emuu, becalmed scenes and fraught-sounding conversations that add up to a lot less than Marchant's direction might imply.

On Layevsky's side there is Samolyenko (played with bluff appeal by Jean-Benoit Blanc),

a big-hearted army doctor who lets his alcoholic friend abuse his bar tab. There is also Laura Jones's shallow Nadyezhda, a married woman infatuated with Layevsky, but sitting on several other local indiscretions. "Crippled by civilisation" and the stifling ambitions of Nadyezhda and his overbearing mother (Victoria Plum), Layevsky dreams of escaping to St Petersburg.

It is a familiar romantic theme in Chekhov. It is unfortunate, therefore, that Paul McEwan's romantic hero has the sexual charisma of a plucked chicken. There isn't a moment when you wouldn't like to take him outside and shoot him yourself.

Roger Ringrose plays Von Koren, the zoologist, like a severe prep school housemaster. His most interesting contribution is a discussion with Tony Sloman's irritatingly happy Deacon. Here Von Koren argues for natural selection over Christian virtues. Don't let humanity get in the way, especially when it comes to scum like Layevsky. Sure enough, by the time we get to the duel, our theatrical charity has long since departed.

The production ends up in a flurry of needless scene changes designed to give the illusion of expediency. The moral code, delivered by a chastened and changed Layevsky, that life proceeds by two steps forward and one step back, could have fallen out of a Chinese fortune cookie.

JAMES
CHRISTOPHER

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Phoenix rising from the ashes

IN THE five seasons Kent Nagano has now completed with the Hallé Orchestra, comment has tended to focus on his interpretative rather than his technical achievement. In converting the Hallé to something closer to his own ideal, Nagano had to reassess it, and, temporarily at least, lost something vital in the process.

If the Hallé has not recovered the more extrovert aspects of its character, it is certainly more at ease both with itself and its principal conductor. Their performance of Mahler's Resurrection Symphony offered abundant evidence of an orchestra with finer tuning, a more accessible and more discriminating range of colour, a clearer texture, and more discipline in general.

The most impressive aspect of the interpretation was the effect made by the one chord, on the last-but-one syllable of the choral part, which marks the climax of the work. The fact that the greatest dramatic effort was reserved for this precise moment is not in itself remarkable. But that it should so naturally take its place

notes that this is the culmination of all that has gone before it was proof of a brilliantly executed strategy.

One of the more important terms in the strategy was the profiling of the second subject of the first movement, the Resurrection theme, which at one point was preceded by a pause so long that it seemed the performance might not start again. But in general it was not an interpretation to take risks. It was presumably part of the economy that the intervention of the voices would lift the interpretation to another level. Certainly, that is what was achieved by Olegers Heleikens' firmly defined Drifts. After some well-managed changes, last-wing effects and an atmospheric blithely cadence in the last movement, the concluding scene of the Hallé Choir lifted it yet again.

GERALD LARNER

Grand horizontal

ROSA MANNION'S performance in the title role was the main reason for going to Jonathan Miller's production of *La traviata* when it opened the ENO season last September. On revival, almost mainly recast and musically a good deal more assured than six months ago, Violante remains the spur.

She is now the American soprano Susan Patterson, making her London debut. The two Violantes could not be more different. In Act 1 Mazoni was already a victim, fragile and in need of support. Patterson is almost dissent, a Henry James heroine keeping her head above decadent European driftwood. Her handling of the act's closing scene was technically unblemished, but drift.

That could well have been part of the game plan. Patterson only began to impose Violante's frosty whirr. Giorgio Germont arrived to confront her. From there the downward slide began. She started to colour Violante's voice line so that the first notes of despair emerged and built towards a steady final act. Throughout the latter Miller kept her in bed and Patterson is well up to the physical demands of singing prostrate, floating out into the distance.

La traviata
Coliseum

notes that announce to everyone but herself that she is about to die.

Julian Gavins, the new Alfredo, threw himself with passion into this last encounter. Earlier he had successfully portrayed the gauché boy not quite sure what had hit him. Christopher Noth-Jones was a seducing, lightfooted Germont. Sharper perhaps than ever, John Copley's Don Alvaro (the Baron) and Anthony Mose (the Viscount).

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The Tories who stayed at home

Garret FitzGerald says Labour won surprisingly few converts

To what extent does Labour's massive parliamentary majority reflect a major swing from Tories to Labour, and to what extent is it the outcome of Tories registering protest votes for groups such as the Referendum Party or else staying at home out of unhappiness with the parliamentary party?

The total voting figures reveal a low turnout, and show that the increase in the Labour vote in no case came near to matching the decline in the votes cast for the Conservative and Liberal Democrat candidates. The first surprise is that although both the total population and the adult population of the UK have risen by about one million since 1992, the electorate today is fractionally smaller than five years ago. Whatever the reason for this anomaly, the fact that there has been very little change in the electorate makes direct comparisons between the 1992 and 1997 elections quite simple.

The total of votes cast on May 1 was down by two million, a drop of 6 per cent in the turnout. How was this accounted for? Broadly speaking, 4,500,000 people who voted Conservative in 1992 failed to do so on this occasion, a drop of almost one third. Moreover, one eighth of the 1992 Liberal Democrat voters, 750,000 of them, also abandoned their former allegiance.

What did these five and a quarter million people do with their votes? Well, 800,000, mainly in England, switched to the Referendum Party — and one can be certain that almost all of this batch of switchers were Tories rather than Liberal Democrats. Moreover, votes for other parties and Independents nearly doubled, increasing by 400,000, and at least half of these must have been Tory switchers. Finally, the Labour vote rose by 2,000,000.

How much of this 2,000,000 Labour gain came from the Tories? Clearly, some of it came from Liberal Democrats. Unlike the Tories, the Liberal Democrats had little reason to abstain, so the bulk of the drop of more than 650,000 in that party's vote must have gone elsewhere — and not many Liberal Democrat voters will have plumped for the Referendum Party or similar splinter groups. It seems safe to assume, therefore, that at least 500,000 of these voters switched to Labour, either for tactical reasons, say to defeat Tory candidates, or because they like Tony Blair's new Labour.

So less than 1,500,000 of Labour's gain can have come from former Tory voters. And, allowing for the 1,000,000 Tory voters who switched to the Referendum Party or to other small parties or Independents, the residue of the 4,500,000 drop in the Tory vote was therefore

accounted for by abstentions. In other words, the whole of the two million fall in the total poll was accounted for simply by Tories staying at home.

With barely one Conservative voter in every ten switching to Labour, it is hard to see how the result of this election can reasonably be described as a landslide, in any normal sense of that term. What made it seem like a landslide, of course, was the first-past-the-post voting system — as a result of which an overall increase of one sixth in the Labour vote, combined with Tory abstentions, increased Labour's parliamentary representation by as much as a half.

The disproportion between the scale of this Labour gain in seats and the much greater magnitude of the Conservative loss — more than half of Tory MPs lost their seats — was accounted for by the perverse relationship between the Liberal Democrats' votes and their seats.

Using one eighth of their votes, the Liberal Democrats nevertheless increased their representation by a factor of more than 2½, apparently largely because of tactical voting by anti-Tory voters in constituencies where Labour was badly placed to defeat the Tory candidate. For once the British electoral system worked in favour of the Liberal Democrats — although, of course, if this election had been held under proportional representation, their 18 seats would have grown not to 46 but to 113!

The significance of all this is that, in terms of votes, Labour's triumph is much more vulnerable to reversal than may have appeared from the way its victory has been reported. True, the disarray into which the Tories have been plunged by their performance in government and their internal divisions may prove too persistent to allow them to recover the ground they have lost within the lifetime of this Parliament. But if the parliamentary party has the sense and the luck to choose someone who can lead from the Centre rather than the extreme Right, it may fairly readily recover the support of the 3,000,000 Tory voters who effectively went on strike. So, even if at the next election there were to be no great swing back from Labour to the Conservatives, a recovery of the Tory abstentionist and protest votes could go a very long way towards restoring Conservative fortunes.

The election, with its 44.4 per cent Labour vote, was not anything like as decisive and sweeping a victory for Labour as it appears.

The author was Prime Minister of Ireland, 1981-82 and 1982-87.

GENERAL ELECTIONS 1992 & 1997

	1992	1997	Change
Conservative	14.05	9.59	-4.46
Labour	11.56	13.55	+1.99
Liberal Democrats	6.00	5.24	-0.76
Nationalists	0.78	0.78	0
Referendum	-	0.81	+0.81
Others	0.44	0.84	+0.40
Great Britain total	22.83	30.82	+2.01
Northern Ireland	0.79	0.79	0
Grand total	33.62	31.81	-2.01
Electorate	45.25	43.15	-0.10
Turnout	77.75%	73.3%	-4.45%

Own goal

RIPPLING through the classics libraries of Europe is the unusual sound of mirthful laughter. A stylish hoax has been perpetrated on that most dour of German publications, *Der Neue Pauly*, the classical encyclopedia founded in Stuttgart in 1839 by the philologist and notorious party bore August Pauly.

News of the trick emerged when a fax arrived at Pisa's Biblioteca della Normale from the hoaxer, signing himself M. Mei, who is believed to be someone once slighted by the Pauly pointyheads.

There is column 895 of the first volume of the latest *Neue Pauly* is the entry for "Apopodobalontes", and in the first and second centuries AD, the sport was taken by the Roman legions to Britain, from where it spread still further. Despite its enormous popularity, it was condemned in early Christian writings and does not appear after the fourth century AD.



Classic display of skills

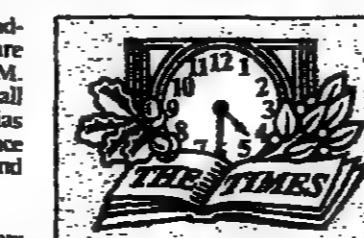
leading "apopodobalontes", and in the first and second centuries AD, the sport was taken by the Roman legions to Britain, from where it spread still further. Despite its enormous popularity, it was condemned in early Christian writings and does not appear after the fourth century AD.

In the brief bibliography ending the entry, three authors are listed: A. Pila, B. Pedes and M. Sammer. In Latin, *pila* means ball and *pedes* means foot. Matthias Sammer currently plays in defence for Borussia Dortmund and Germany.

The latest to jump from the Tory bridge is Steve Hilton, 27, who helped to run the Tories disastrous election advertising campaign from Central Office. Tutored in the dark arts by Maurice Saatchi, he was credited with much of the work on the "Labour's tax bombshell" campaign in 1992 and the demon eyes last year. Now, however, he is preparing to leave his mentor's company, MBC Saatchi, to form a rival with friends. Doubtless it will be joining the queue to bid for the Tory account for the next election.

Horseplay

NOWHERE was the social shift of the past ten days more obvious than at Badminton on Saturday. Strolling among the country sport lovers with his bodyguards, ignoring the anti-hunting stands, was the new Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook. Though a noted racing fan,



his love of three-day-eventing is something quite new.

Meanwhile, eyeing him jealously through the crowd was Sebastian Coe, who was ousted as Tory MP for Falmouth and Camborne, and who was watching his own horse tackling the cross-country.

It's got to be

EXPECTATIONS were low at Gordon Brown's drinks party for Treasury officials and journalists on Friday evening. In a week in which the talk had been of no lunching and government austerity, Brown, whose reputation is that of joyless roundhead-in-chief, had capped it all by saying his bush would be financed out of his own rather than the public pocket.

The gloom deepened when guests arriving in Brown's vast new drawing room saw no sign of the small table in the far corner from which the Treasury bean-counters have traditionally permitted meagre rations and abysmal vintages to be dispensed. Yet strangely, Brown was aglow.

The reason quickly became apparent when he pointed to a door leading off the drawing room. There was a whole room filled with cases far more palatable than the



"I'm programming it to kick over the board and go off in a huff"

Treasury ever provided. "If this is what they mean by 'lifting the dead hand of Treasury dogma and private-public partnership', said one of the guests, "long may it continue."

In Washington last week, John F. Kennedy Jr. was working out in the gym of the Four Seasons hotel. In front, a woman grinding away on the tread-mill, her hunk's reflection in the mirror, turned to stare and came crashing off the machine. Biops Kennedy just kept on flexing.

Fawsley towers

CHIEF among the Tory leftovers that Labour is keen to shift is Lord St. John of Fawsley, chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission. The new custodians of the Department of National Heritage would prefer a chairman with fewer Tory affiliations, political and cultural.

Their task, however, may not be easy. Fawsley has three years left on his contract, and when determined to be harder to budge than egg on a silk dressing gown. Time then for some lateral thinking.

Labour is wondering if cutting down on his perks, such as his government car, might encourage him

to distrust and dislike the political class. As Giscard has said, "The French wish to be governed in another way".

The election has already become venomous enough; there is no way, yet, of knowing who will be the victor on June 1. My own feeling is that once an election starts to slide away from a government, it usually goes on sliding. When President Chirac called this premature election, the first polls showed a government majority of around 40 seats; now that is down to zero. If Giscard is right, the French may have decided to change their government, even to one which could be considerably worse. For the French to vote for Lionel Jospin is a temptation of despair rather than an expression of hope.

Yet this is a very important election. The French Left is wholly committed to reducing unemployment. The propaganda talks of 700,000 new jobs. That cannot be achieved without accepting a higher deficit than the Maastricht 3 percent; nor can the other Socialist promises be kept. It is a question of priorities. Lionel Jospin favours the euro in theory, but has promised to put employment first; he will depend in the Assembly upon the vote of Communists who oppose the euro as such. If on June 1 it comes clear that the French have taken Jean-Marie Le Pen's advice, "better Jospin than Juppé", France will not be able to join the euro on anything like the Maastricht terms. The exchange dealers will sell francs and buy marks. The British Government may be spared a difficult choice. The election is depressing and may be tragic, but it could decide the future of the European Union.

Mr Cook says that if we want progress it is "probably better not to shout 'No' at everything". He is hoping that Britain will be given a proper legal basis for retaining external border controls. He is willing to consider more co-operation on drugs and international crime. But he is as wary as the Tories of the general flexibility clause proposed by France and Germany to allow an inner core of nations to develop new arrangements under the EU's umbrella. He also opposes any moves towards turning the EU into a defence organisation, or undermining foreign policy co-operation. Under the Cook approach, Britain might be a more harmonious member of the EU, but it will still not be in the inner core.

Robin Cook remains a sceptic about European monetary union. When I suggested that Gordon Brown's decision last Tuesday to give the Bank of England operational responsibility for setting interest rates could open the way to British participation, his reply was an unequivocal no. Gordon and Tony both made it very plain that it was a decision about the bank and interest rates policy in Britain, and in no way prompted by or to be seen as a step towards monetary union. While not ruling out participation in the current Parliament, he repeats his campaign refrain that it is "unlikely". Mr Brown, however, wants to keep open the option. Watch for skirmishes here — and possibly the key battle of this Government.

Mr Cook wants to remain involved in domestic politics despite the long periods of travelling. Of course, he will have Mr Blair's ear, since much of the travel is with the Prime Minister. He is also on Mr Blair's new strategy committee, and is represented on the daily co-ordinating committee, chaired by Peter Mandelson. And he is keen to press his views on constitutional change, particularly electoral reform.

What Mr Cook really wants is the wide influence of Bevin or Callaghan. Despite his own left-wing past, Mr Cook says that Bevin is the Labour Foreign Secretary he admires most. Perhaps he ought to find a portrait of Bevin for the empty space over his mantelpiece — an acceptable "old" Labour hero for the Blame era.



St. John: finer things to quit. Then there are the Commission's handsome offices in St. James's Square. The threat of relocation to, say, Portland House in St. James Place, home of the snobbish Millennium Commission and Arts Council Lottery Board, may well be enough either to send Fawsley packing or at least ensure a sodden conversion afterwards.

Perhaps that new Labour purple wasn't so bad after all.

P.H.S



THE BRIDGE BUILDER

Another papal milestone in Lebanon

Many well-wishers have argued that the Pope, now 76 and in uncertain health, should travel less. They have only to look at his last two overseas tours — to Bosnia and Lebanon — to see why John Paul II still believes in his mission to bring healing and harmony to lands wracked by hatred, and why he is right. His visit to Beirut is one of the most important he has ever made. Acclaimed by a crowd of 300,000 people, the largest gathering Lebanon has ever seen, the pontiff has preached reconciliation and renewal, freedom and dignity. He has been a true bridge-builder, helping to reconstruct the links between Christianity and Islam in Lebanon, where the badge of faith has not been a symbol of piety but a flag of civil war. His reception by Maronite, Druze, Shia and Sunni leaders is a confirmation that Lebanon's long conflict is over, and that the nation may, at last, be at peace with itself.

The importance of the Pope's visit lies not only in the spiritual comfort it brings to an embattled Christian community that has seen its temporal power eclipsed and its spiritual values disfigured; it is because in Lebanon, as in Ireland, religion still implies political allegiance. The Pope had therefore to tread a careful line in his pronouncements; for whatever he said could have been taken by the former warring communities either as support for their embattled positions or betrayal of their cause. In fact, despite infirmity, he demonstrated all the political agility which have made him one of the most influential Popes of this century.

He told the Lebanese that the sufferings of the past years had not been in vain and they would strengthen Lebanon's freedom and unity. He called on the country to recover "total independence, complete sovereignty and unambiguous freedom". As everyone in the crowd knew, Lebanon is not yet free. It is a fiefdom of Syria, whose 35,000 troops and military satraps have the final say in what

the Government of Rafik Hariri, the energetic Muslim Prime Minister, can do. And no community resents this more bitterly than the Christians.

The Pope, whose conviction that Christian communities must have political freedom was forged in his Polish homeland in the days of communism, was able to direct his remarks as much at Israel, which maintains a border occupation zone in the south, as at Syria. He did not explicitly support the call for withdrawal made by Lebanese bishops after a Vatican synod in 1995. But his remarks will give Lebanese Christians the same comfort that his anti-communist stance gave to embattled East Europeans in the days before the fall of the Berlin Wall. The message to both Jerusalem and Damascus is that they should halt their proxy war in Lebanon, restore the country's long lost sovereignty and allow the internal healing process, which has led to such a remarkable economic recovery, to be completed without interference.

Such hopes are bound to be disappointed until Israel and Syria are ready to make peace with each other. Dennis Ross, the indefatigable American Middle East envoy, has returned to the region for the second time in a month, and is again suggesting that the stalled peace process can yet be restarted. Encouragingly, despite the pessimism on all sides, both Arabs and Israelis appear willing to make one more effort. It will, however, be a long time before this encompasses Lebanon. Meanwhile, the Pope has counselled continued patience and fortitude for Lebanese Christians and Muslims. The intervention of Syria ended their civil war; the best way of convincing Damascus that its troops no longer need to patrol the streets is to continue the reconciliation and physical rebirth of a once devastated country. The Pope's visit has played its part.

NO PEACE, NO PRIVILEGE

Sinn Fein can be heard only when their guns fall silent

Those who wish to take advantage of democracy's privilege must abide by its decency. Sinn Fein may have secured 16 per cent of the popular vote in Northern Ireland and two MPs; but Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams are not entitled to the same benefits as other members of the Commons as long as the party they lead continue to support the IRA's armed struggle. The idea that republicanism's two most senior strategists should enjoy Westminster's facilities while their associates continue to prosecute a murderous campaign to undermine democracy is insupportable.

During the election campaign, republican terrorists paralysed Britain's transport system and grievously wounded a female police officer in Londonderry. Only last Friday an off-duty RUC officer was murdered by criminals who can only operate with the IRA's active connivance. Until the republican movement has moved away from violence, credibly and completely, it cannot expect to have its spokesmen indulged.

Sinn Fein attempted to woo nationalist voters during the general election by dishonestly diluting the party's abstentionist stance. In the past, Sinn Fein MPs have not taken their place in the Commons because they do not recognise the legitimacy of Westminster rule; now they plan to take advantage of a presence in Parliament while still formally refusing to take their seats. Although they continue to decline to take the oath of allegiance which would enable them to sit in the Commons, they believe they are nevertheless entitled to all the other facilities of the House, from catering to computing.

The Sergeant at Arms has ruled they are within their rights. These rules are wrong; they were never intended to allow entry to those denying democratic freedom them-

selves. Apart from the security implications of giving terrorism's champions the run of the Commons, Sinn Fein MPs should not be able to masquerade as legitimate representatives.

Denying Adams and McGuinness access to Westminster may allow them to grandstand outside and claim the attention of the cameras for the day, but it is more important for the British state to affirm that politicians who support violence cannot escape the consequences of their actions. Nor can voters who wish to be represented at Westminster escape the consequences of rejecting constitutional nationalism.

If Sinn Fein is perceived not to be suffering for its support for violence then misguided elements within the majority Unionist community may draw the melancholy lesson that they too can use force, or threaten force, to strengthen their position. With the gravest test of the marching season, the Drumcree parade, only weeks away, any weakening in the face of armed republicanism will only make the chance of a peaceful resolution to the contentious march less likely.

In its first days in office, the Labour Government has shown its astute in its policy towards Northern Ireland. An early and positive meeting with the Irish Prime Minister and a more assertive approach to parades have been balanced by cordial contacts with the Unionist leader David Trimble and a renewed insistence on a sincere ceasefire from the IRA before Sinn Fein can enter all-party talks. Labour's landslide emboldened some republicans to believe their day had come. Mr Blair should use his own good sense and affirm that Sinn Fein can be heard there only when the guns have been silenced.

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

This grey panther generation takes grey poodles for walkies

Humans are not alone in living longer and ageing more slowly. Man's best friend is keeping him company on his extended walk into the sunset. A survey published today demonstrates a shift in the ageing pattern of dogs. About a third of the UK's dog population of 6.5 million is now classified as "senior", that is, in dogged euphemism, aged 7 to 8 or older, depending on breed. And as with humans, the proportion of elderly has increased, is increasing and will continue to increase.

This survey challenges with graphs and pie-charts of age profiles the notion that a year in human age is equivalent to seven years for dogs. The truth is more complex. A dog aged one is already the equivalent of a human at 18, at eight its age equals 56, and at 16 it equals 96. The pet food manufacturers are launching a senior dog food on the back of these statistics. And with it they have published a book giving advice on how to look after the older dog. This includes massage of an Alexander hound technique, hot water bottles for stiff joints, regular grooming to increase circulation, and sensible (ie brief and undemanding, without too many rabbits) exercise for older dogs.

It is natural and comforting that man and dog should age together. Some old dogs are already learning new prosthetic tricks equivalent to Zimmer frames. Other older watchdogs have developed into poodle potatoes so that the only thing that they

watch is television. More would undoubtedly be sent to the fashionable new profession of pet psychiatrists, except that most dogs have been trained to know that they are not allowed to go on the couch.

The connection between man and dog has always been intimate. Jane Carlyle once complained that her household's inattentive little beast danced around Thomas Carlyle on its hind legs as she ought to and could not. "He feels flattered and surprised by such unwanted capers to his honour and glory." Dogs and owners are bound by a tie more intimate than most ties in this world. And yet, outside that tie of friendly fondness, each is insensible to all that makes life significant to the other. Man cannot understand the rapture of old bones in bin-liners or lamp-posts and trees: dogs miss the delights of literature and art.

This greying of the British dog population is bringing huge profits to the veterinary profession, just as the ageing of the human population brings problems to the National Health Service. Urban humans are gradually being made to become more responsible about the mess and noise that their dogs make. While humans who work with dogs may have become less ruthless about putting them down as soon as they become no use for work, dog has always been a parable as well as a companion. So there is no reason why an old dog should not now teach man new tricks about age.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

BBC's pursuit of the young and the quality of its output

From Mr David Lowe

Sir, I have been making radio programmes for the BBC and the independent local radio sector since 1981. In recent years, however, I have witnessed first hand the often undignified scramble for ever younger audiences.

At the same time, I have looked on with an increasing sense of helplessness as the more mature and more discerning listeners and viewers have been systematically sacrificed on the altars of "youth-culture", positive discrimination, tokenism and political correctness.

Now, to add insult to injury, Michael Jackson, the new chief executive of Channel 4, criticises his former employer, the BBC, for still being "weak" in talking to young people (report, May 7; see also leading article, May 8). In an attempt to bring some level of meaning to his argument, he has thrown in the now obligatory socio-political mantras about women and the BBC's perceived southern England bias.

What these criticisms fail to take into account is that, while young people are out clubbing and pubbing, many older and more discerning listeners and viewers are channel-hopping in an attempt to find something — anything — of relevance to their eyes and ears. Surely substance should be the name of the game: the kind of substance that once helped to create for British radio and television a global reputation for excellence.

The largest single generation this century — the baby-boomers — is ra-

pidly approaching retirement age. Yet its share of the radio and television cake is being eroded at such a rate that it may disappear well before they reach that stage.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LOWE,
8 Windsor Close, Torquay, Devon.
May 8.

From Mr Michael Jackson

Sir, Your leading article, "Unusual channels", gave an extremely partial account of comments I made about the BBC at a press conference on Tuesday. In fact I went out of my way to say that I believe the BBC is in very good creative shape and, as you reported (May 7), that I supported the recent changes in the BBC structure.

My comments on the BBC's difficulties with certain audience groups were simply a statement of fact about something of which the BBC is aware and is addressing.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL JACKSON,
c/o 201 Ashmore Road, W9.
May 9.

From the Chief Executive of BBC Broadcast

Sir, The BBC is a house of many mansions and Brenda Maddox (Media and Marketing, May 7) should not make an assumption that a door that opens for a departing executive does not admit fresh incoming talent on the counterswing.

Not to detract from Michael Jackson's skills, the raft of success enjoyed

by BBC Television over the past few years has been achieved by close teamwork involving a great many people. BBC1 has stabilized its audience share and narrowed the gap with ITV; BBC2 has outpaced Channel 4 and the awards have flooded in — 12 out of 16 from Bafta alone last week.

Our rivals are bound to raid our talent locker. But the BBC is a vast community of creative people, constantly being refreshed at every level — not least at the top by such recent recruits as Paul Jackson and Jane Root from the independent sector and Roger Wright from Deutsche Grammophon.

Yours faithfully,
WILL WYATT,
Chief Executive,
BBC Broadcast,
Broadcasting House,
Portland Place, W1.
May 9.

From Dr David Bracher

Sir, You report today that the BBC is moving *Panorama* aside to make way for a sitcom. And its reason, it seems, is to maintain audience figures against commercial television.

Surely there is a better rationale for the existence of a public channel than the mere counting of eyeballs. If the BBC cannot find one, I, for one, am ready to vote against the licence fee.

Yours faithfully,
D.M. BRACHER,
Ashfield,
Albany Road, Abergavenny, Gwent.
May 8.

From Mr Ernest F. Smith

Sir, On April 19 I received from the Paymaster General's Office the annual notification of the amounts of my Civil Service pension and tax deducted during the year ended April 5, 1997, together with the amount of my pension for the forthcoming year. Within the accompanying correspondence there was a note to the effect that from April 1, 1997, the work of the PGO had been privatised.

Banks, in my view, should not advocate a practice which — since retirement pensions credited in this way are paid four weeks in arrear — loses their customers' money. However, there is another important objection.

Many banks have closed their rural branches and their place as a source of cash has been largely taken by post offices. The commission received for acting as agents of the Government makes this role worth the post offices' while.

If many bank customers respond positively to renewed "postaching", the result can only be a further decline in the number of rural post offices.

Yours faithfully,
A.T. CLARK,
Winterside, Church Path,
Shipton-under-Wychwood,
Oxfordshire.
May 7.

Post-election 97

From Mr Julian Nicol

Sir, At last the nation has departed the hustings and society can return to its relatively normal pastime of attacking the Government.

However, it appears from *The Times* reports, leading article and letters, May 7 and other newspapers that Mr Brown is to be congratulated for his innovation in yielding control of interest rates to the Bank of England. Never again will a Chancellor be accused of creating an electoral boom.

His close friend the Prime Minister could earn even more points for further innovation. May I suggest that Mr Blair proposes legislation that will create fixed-term parliaments, in line with other major democracies. This would surely rid the population of the nauseating media speculation of "when will Mr Blair name the day?" and allow those who wish to book long vacations.

Come on, Prime Minister, do the decent thing and put May 2, 2002, in all our diaries.

Yours,
JULIAN NICOL,
70 Dale Street, York.
May 7.

From Mr Paul G. Chadwick

Sir, The black and white information posters used at polling stations convey a style that has not much changed

since the beginning of the century, when hot-metal type faces were used.

Laser printers, for example, have transformed the look of the printed page with a huge choice of type faces, colours, styles and layouts.

Yet, looking at last week's polling station poster, one would assume that whoever is responsible for their production is unaware of this graphic revolution.

Time for a change?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL CHADWICK,
45 Empress Road, Derby.
May 6.

From Mr J. B. Hughes

Sir, As the Church of England has been described as the Tory Party at prayer, must we now expect an even further decline in church attendances?

Yours faithfully,
J. B. HUGHES,
Hope Cove, Kingsbridge, Devon.
May 4.

From Mrs P. E. Denyer

Sir, A vote of thanks is due to your journalists, photographers and cartoonists for the fun and laughter they have given to the campaign.

Yours etc.,
P. E. DENYER,
Nimrod,
Nursery Close,
Horsell, Woking, Surrey.

broken down as rapidly as usual. The immune system of badgers, which root in the cowpats for food, may then in turn be suppressed.

I do not believe the increasing incidence of TB is likely to be solved by eliminating badgers, whose responsibility has been researched, as your report states, since the 1970s but is still unproven.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD MICKLETHWAITE,
Penhinc,
Nr Chepstow, Monmouthshire.
May 6.

From the Administrator of the People's Trust for Endangered Species

Sir, In fairness to all our supporters I must point out that the badger census to which your report refers was not, as stated, commissioned by the previous Government, but by this charity.

Aware of the pressing need for such

a survey and the apparent reluctance of others to undertake it, we commissioned Professor Stephen Harris at Bristol University to carry it out.

The results will be published in September, when accurate information about badger numbers will at last be available. Until then we remain unsure as to whether the number of badgers in the UK as a whole is declining or rising.

Yours faithfully,
VALERIE KEEBLE,
Administrator,
People's Trust for Endangered Species,
15 Cloisters House,
8 Battersea Park Road, SW8.
May 7.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Assessing value of evolution theory

From Mr Alan Geal

Sir, Mr Peter Talbot Wilcox (letter, May 6) avers that "Evolutionism [sic] has become a dogma based upon inadequate knowledge". Although I cannot disagree with his contention that evidence of morphological adaptation, as in the Caribbean lizards' legs (report, May 1), does not necessarily, in itself, corroborate evolutionary processes, his depiction of the intellectual nature of scientific theories may be erroneous.

The significance of the theory of evolution resides in its explanatory power: quite simply, the theory is the most cogent and expansive description of an aspect of biology that we have yet formed. Unlike dogmas, which are based on *a priori* principles and exclusively derive their power from authority, scientific theories are demonstrably open to failure.

A distinguishing characteristic of a scientific theory is that it can be disproved by observation. Although this fate has yet to overtake Darwin's great hypothesis, should another theory replace it, then all scientists will rejoice. However, its antecedents are already consigned to the domains of the history of science or fundamentalist theology. Thus, I "believe" in the theory of evolution since I wish to understand the world and, for the present, have no better theory available to me.

Whilst there may be some who hold dogmatic or authoritarian views on the absolute truth of biological evolution, this is not a strictly scientific conclusion. The evolution of species is a theory — or more precisely a set of theories — and although supported by an empirical basis it remains a mere construct of the human mind, albeit a splendid and beautiful one. As such, it is a "dogma" only in the original Greek meaning, that is, of "seeming", or "informed by opinion" — as are all scientific theories of the physical universe.

Thus finally, I must again agree with Mr Talbot Wilcox: the theory of evolution is indeed based on inadequate knowledge. Such is the extent of our ignorance that the entire great edifice of science is so based. The late Sir Karl Popper expressed this clearly: The empirical basis of objective science has thus nothing "absolute" about it. Science does not rest upon solid bedrock, as it were, above a swamp. It is like a building created on piles. The piles are driven down from above into the swamp, but not down to any natural or



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE May 10: The Princess Royal, Patron, this afternoon attended the Gloucestershire and North Avon Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs' Sixtieth Anniversary Show at the Equine Centre, Harbury College, near Gloucester, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elcock).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE May 11: The Duke of York left Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon for San Francisco, United States of America.

Sir Roger Hervey (Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and took leave of His Royal Highness. Major Timothy Allan is in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE

May 11: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present at the Annual Memorial Service and Parade of the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades which was held in Hyde Park this morning, when Her Majesty took the salute and laid a wreath on the Cavalry Memorial.

The Lady Margaret Colville and Major Charles MacEwan were in attendance.

Royal engagements

The Queen will visit the Household Cavalry at Windsor at 11.00 and stay to luncheon.

The Duke of Edinburgh will open the exhibition *Lord Cochrane in Chile: In the Admirals Footsteps* at the Bolivar Hall, 52-54 Grosvenor Street, London W1 at 4.15.

The Princess Royal, as President, Animal Health Trust, will attend a Corporate Members Reception III, at Buckingham Palace at 3.00. Princess Margaret, as President, The Friends of the Elderly, will visit Perrin House and Davenham, the society's homes in Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, from 12.45 and will open the exhibition *Sensations: The Arts in Venice from the 13th to the 18th Century* at the European Academy for the Arts, Grosvenor Place, London SW1 at 6.30.

The Duke of Gloucester, as President, Cancer Research Campaign, accompanied by the Duchess of Gloucester, will attend a celebration of Dance in aid of the Lord Mayor's appeal, at the Royal College of Music at 7.15.

Dinner

Lord Mayor of Westminster The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster were the hosts at a dinner held yesterday at City Hall for past lord mayors.

Birthdays today

Mr Burt Bacharach, composer, 68; Mr Alan Ball, football manager, 52; Mr N.D. Cadbury, chairman, Cadbury Schweppes, 57; Professor Sir Cyril Chantler, paediatrician, 58; Mr A. Coates, former chairman, Price Waterhouse, 73; the Earl of Cork and Orrery, 81; Mr John Floyd, auctioneer, 74; Miss Susan Hampshire, actress, 55; Mr H.V. Hodson, former Editor, *The Sunday Times*, 91; Mr Michael Ignatieff, writer, 50; Miss Helena Kennedy, QC, 47; the Earl of Kimberley, 73; Dr David Kimble, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Malawi, 79; Lord Laing of Dunphail, 74; Mr Eric Lay, former chairman, Pearl Group, 73.

**BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000**

Be strong and resolute, you must not dread them or be afraid, for the Lord your God himself is with you, and he will not let you down or forsake you. Deuteronomy 31: 6

BIRTHS

BURLIN - On May 7th at the Portland Hospital, 10 St. James's Street, London, a son, Timothy, a brother for Oliver, Hugh and Edward.

LEEMING - On May 6th in Peterborough Hospital, to Barbara and William, Roni, a daughter, for Alice, Catherine.

MCDOUGALL - On May 7th in All Saints' Spanish City, a daughter, Victoria Morell, a sister for Lisa, Jennifer and Tara.

PHEL - On the 5th May 1997 at St James's Hospital, London, to Helen and Michael, a son, Robert, a son Alexander Lawrence.

SYMONS - On May 2nd in Reading, to Helen (late Gandy) and Tom, a daughter, Katie Annabelle, a sister for Tom.

ANNIVERSARIES

10th: Jim and Sue, 10 years.

DEATHS

ARMITAGE - Edith died peacefully in the last days of the Hall, Thornton-le-Dale, her home for the past five years, on Thursday 8th May 1997 at the age of 90. Beloved mother of John, Jean, Andrew and Anthony, granmy, grandmother, friend and family doctor. She will be greatly remembered by so many. Private cremation followed by a service at Thornton-le-Dale on Friday 11th May 1997 at All Saints' Parish Church, Thornton-le-Dale, Pickering. Family flowers, donations to the church or the church or Mrs M.G.M. Moore, Appleby-in-Wharfedale, North Yorkshire, YO1 5HU.

APFAYNE - On May 6th aged 66, a twin, Cyril, Vivian Frances Helen, a widow of Michael and Joan (Lever).

BARQUET - Phoebe (née Miller) On May 7th in Gloucester, after a long illness, aged 87. Much loved wife of the late Louis Charnier and a late Rayford Barr. Dearest mother of Jonathan and Stephen Charnier. Much loved grandmother. She was a good woman. No letters please. Funeral private.

CHARLES - See Griffiths.

CLARK - Jack at home on May 5th. Funeral, May 16th 12.30pm All Saints' Clarendon.

Leading musicians in fight to save collection

Priceless manuscripts are turning to dust

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN NAPLES

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to save an endangered collection of priceless Italian musical manuscripts, with two leading figures in the music world — Riccardo Muti, the conductor, and Roberto De Simone, head of the Naples Conservatoire and an opera director at the San Carlo Theatre — appealing for European-wide help.

Signor Muti is normally associated with La Scala in Milan. But he was born in Naples, and studied piano and composition at the Conservatorio di San Pietro a Majella. His signed photograph hangs at the Conservatoire next to a portrait of Donizetti, who taught counterpart there as well as managing the San Carlo for 16 years.

The Conservatoire has an extraordinary collection of musical manuscripts and letters stretching back to the 16th century, by composers such as Puccini, Rossini, Verdi, Pergolesi, Monteverdi, Berio and Bellini. But the collection lies in uncatalogued piles in the Conservatory library, and the precious paper crumbles to the touch. Some of the music has not been played since it was written hundreds of years ago and is turning to dust.

Signor Muti, who has collaborated with Signor De Simone on many operas, said the collection was a unique and irreplaceable record. "There are vast numbers of unique autographed manuscripts, and rare early copies

of printed music. Renaissance treatises on the art of music, letters from the greatest composers and musicians, opera libretti ... incredible riches. But it is all uncatalogued, unedited and in desperate need of restoration."

At the Conservatoire, an elegant if crumbling oasis of 18th-century calm just off the bustle of a rundown Naples side-street, Signor De Simone points out the cracks in the walls and ceilings which date from the Naples earthquake of 1980. "With Muti's help I am trying to save a national treasure," he said. "But absurdly we are classified as a school library, and come under the Ministry of Education, not the Ministry of Culture. So we get no staff or funding from the state. We have one librarian, but we can only afford to pay him to come 12 hours a week."

Appointed a year ago, Signor De Simone, 63, is worshipped by his students, who are relieved that a musician has been put in charge and not a colourless bureaucrat. This spring he has been staging an opera-bouffe by Donizetti at the San Carlo Theatre.

A small, birdlike man with a black cape draped theatrically over his shoulders, he talks non-stop about his musical passions, including the folk music of the Campania, the Naples region. He has astonished local people by inviting schoolchildren to come into the Conservatoire for music lessons in the afternoon. "I get a lot of support



Riccardo Muti: 'Desperate need of restoration'

from Antonio Bassolino, the mayor, who has offered help with restoring the building.

But we need help with the archives, too. There is no air conditioning and this place burns like an oven in summer."

Signor De Simone has rescued some remarkable memorabilia from the basement and put them on display: a tiny ebony harp by Stradivari. But we need help with the archives, too. There is no air conditioning and this place burns like an oven in summer."

Signor Muti, the library is in a precarious state. "There is a grave danger that it will be lost irrecoverably," he and Signor De Simone wrote in a joint appeal to the Italian Government. They are prepared to make a noise — literally: at the end of last year Signor De Simone took his brass and percussion students down to the San Carlo on the first night of the new season, and while operagoers streamed in to hear Pavarotti in *Puccini's Tosca*, they held up placards and banners about the plight of the Conservatoire. "Then we played the triumphant march from Verdi's *Aida* — very loudly."

Signor Muti: 'Desperate need of restoration'

braces that were Bellini's. But according to Signor Muti, the library is in a precarious state. "There is a grave danger that it will be lost irrecoverably," he and Signor De Simone wrote in a joint appeal to the Italian Government. They are prepared to make a noise — literally: at the end of last year Signor De Simone took his brass and percussion students down to the San Carlo on the first night of the new season, and while operagoers streamed in to hear Pavarotti in *Puccini's Tosca*, they held up placards and banners about the plight of the Conservatoire. "Then we played the triumphant march from Verdi's *Aida* — very loudly."

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Signor Muti, the library is in a precarious state. "There is a grave danger that it will be lost irrecoverably," he and Signor De Simone wrote in a joint appeal to the Italian Government. They are prepared to make a noise — literally: at the end of last year Signor De Simone took his brass and percussion students down to the San Carlo on the first night of the new season, and while operagoers streamed in to hear Pavarotti in *Puccini's Tosca*, they held up placards and banners about the plight of the Conservatoire. "Then we played the triumphant march from Verdi's *Aida* — very loudly."

Nature notes

Curlews are nesting on the moors: their four bluish eggs lie in the form of a cross in a hollow in the sand. The young perform a slight dance above the nest. It soars, trilling our fastest and fastest as it climbs, hovers and glides to earth again.

Lapwings have four eggs similarly arranged in their nests in the fields. The chicks run and hide in the grass as soon as they hatch, but it takes a month before they are large enough to fly. Chaffinches are nesting in the forks of apple trees, and greenfinches building their bulky nests in dense evergreens. The last summer visitors are back, with grasshopper warblers making their high-pitched, reeling song in marshy scrub, and wood warblers singing in the beech woods.

Guilder rose bushes are in bloom: the rossets have a mass of small creamy flowers in the middle and an outer ring of large white

flowers. Early purple orchid is out in woods and on roadside: it has purple, pink or white flowers on long stalk, and boldly spotted leaves. The four-petalled yellow flowers of tormentil are common in grassy places, and the first orange-coloured small heath butterflies are filling over them. D.J.M.

The curlew

Memorial services

Dame Penelope Jessel A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Dame Penelope Jessel, a former international officer of the Liberal Party, was held on Saturday at the Church of St Giles, Oxford. Canon Ralph Stevens officiated. Mr Adam Butcher read the lesson; Ms Stephen Jessel, son, read from *Four Quarters* by T.S. Eliot. Mrs Pat St John read *Remember Me* by Christina Rossetti and Mrs Elizabeth Gray read *For ever There* by Juanita De Long. Mr Eric Dehn, Ms Maggie Ford, Ms Christina Baros and Mr Marvin Well gave addresses.

Among others present were: Mrs Bond (widow), Mr and Mrs Kingman (and daughter), Mr and Mrs Robert Bond (son-in-law), Mr Ian Beaumont (son-in-law), Mr and Mrs Julian Milliken, of Abinger Hammer, Surrey, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Fraser, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Professor Godfrey Bond A service of thanksgiving for the life of Professor Godfrey Bond, Emeritus Fellow of Pembroke College

and a former Public Orator of Oxford University, was held on Saturday at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford. The Rev Dr John Plain, Chaplain of Pembroke College, officiated. Miss Catherine Bond (daughter) read *Remember Me* by Christina Rossetti, and Mr Dan Wilson, a Pembroke undergraduate, read from the works of W.B. Yeats. Sir Robert Carrwell gave an address. Among others present were:

Mrs Bond (widow), Mr and Mrs Kingman (and daughter), Mr and Mrs Julian Milliken, of Abinger Hammer, Surrey, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Fraser, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr and Mrs A.P.M. House

The engagement is announced between Adam, elder son of Mr and Mrs William House, of Gloucester-on-Wye, Powys, and Arabella, daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank House, of Llanbrynmair, Powys.

The Rev Paul Noble Thompson, Vicar of Llanbrynmair, with Peter Monks, Superintendant, will be licensed to the Parish of Barry All Saints from July 1, and also to Diocesan Youth Chaplain for three years.

The Rev Eluned Hughes, Vicar of Llanllyfni, retired through ill health on May 1.

Church in Wales

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Church news

Appointments: The Rev David Berryman, Team Rector, Coventry (Coveney); to be Team Rector, Leicester; The Abbey, and Priest-in-Charge, Leicester St Paul's (Leicester).

The Rev Keith Carrington, Vicar of West Tanfield and Well w

Stape and North Stanley; to be also Assistant Rural Dean, of Ripon (Ripon).

Canon Julian Eagle, to be Canon Emeritus of Winchester Cathedral

on his retirement on October 19 as Industrial Chaplain w the South Hampshire Industrial Mission.

Mr N.D. Pasha and Miss S.M. Norris

Nuptial Mass was celebrated in the Episcopate S. Simeon, Périgueux, France, after the marriage, at Périgueux, on Saturday, May 3, 1997, of Mr Nicholas Omer Pasha, son of Mr Mohamed Kamal Pasha and Mrs Elizabeth R. Pasha, of Denver, Norfolk, to Miss Sophie Madred Norris, daughter of the late Mr David Joseph Norris and of Mrs Roberta M. Norris, of Périgueux, France.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Mrs Louise Wignall, Mrs Josephine Mansfield, Joanne Grimond, Mary Macaulay, Daniel and Munro Davies and Dr Judith M. Roy, Canon William Norman, Preacher of the inn, officiated.

A reception was held at the Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr R. Chaplin and Miss J.M. Proudlove

The marriage took place on Saturday, May 10, 1997, at the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Boldre, Hampshire, of Mr Nicholas Corless, elder son of Colonel and Mrs David Corless, to Miss Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Corless, of Finchampstead, Berks.

Mr E.H.S. Milnes and Miss J.L. Fawcett

The engagement is announced between Robbie, son of the late Mr Julian Milnes and of Mrs Julian Milken, of Abinger Hammer, Surrey, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Fraser, of Weybridge, Surrey.

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OBITUARIES

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER MYLES OSBORN

Lieutenant-Commander Myles Osborn DSO, OBE, DSC, wartime naval pilot died on May 2 aged 82. He was born in Lytham St Annes on December 15, 1914.

It was while flying a Swordfish with 829 Squadron from the aircraft carrier *Formidable* that Myles Osborn took part in the Battle of Cape Matapan on March 28, 1941, for which he was awarded the DSC. Admiral Cunningham, naval C-in-C in the Mediterranean, had learnt from Ultra decodes that an Italian force, led by the fast battleship *Vittorio Veneto*, had sailed out to attack British convoys.

Cunningham intended that an advance squadron of four Allied cruisers should try to lure this force towards his three battleships, which were naturally immensely superior in gunpower. At 1500 hours, just as the Italian cruisers and battleship were assailing Cunningham's cruisers, 829's five attack aircraft — three Albacores and Osborn's two Swordfish — spotted the Italian battleship and attacked with torpedoes.

The intervention was decisive. Osborn led his sub-flight through heavy ack-ack fire towards the *Veneto*, his slow biplane "Stringbags" (Swordfish) drawing enemy fire. Although his torpedo missed, one fast Albacore hit the target close to her bows and the Italian battleship limped back to port, taking with her a cruiser escort which might have been more usefully employed in the subsequent engagement.

At dusk 829's aircraft returned and found and crippled the heavy cruiser *Pola*. She was later sunk by British destroyers. In a night action, the *Pola*'s two sister cruisers, which had been sent to her aid, and two Italian destroyers were sunk. After the victory of Cape Matapan the Italian fleet ceased to pose a threat in the Mediterranean.

Osborn's father Ashby had been ranching in Canada when the First World War broke out, but he crossed the Atlantic and joined the Wiltshire Regiment, one of Kitchener's first 100,000 volunteers. He was killed in May 1917 in Mesopotamia.

Brought up by his mother Marjorie, who never remarried, George Myles Thomas Osborn passed through the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, between 1927 and 1931. His mother lost her savings in the Great Crash but the college chaplain was her brother and he paid for her son to complete his training. After serving in the Fleet as a midshipman, Osborn was recommended for a course in flying at Greenwich and subsequently served in various aircraft carriers.

At the outset of war "Woole" Osborn (the nickname was a reference to a favourite passage in *Winnie the Pooh*) was with 829 Squadron RN



Osborn, centre front row, and pilots and observers of his squadron in front of a Seafire shortly after the war

in the Mediterranean, first in *Ark Royal*, then *Illustrious*. By the time of Matapan, he was one of the Navy's most experienced pilots and a natural leader. Attacking convoys and shipping supplying Axis forces in North Africa, Osborn believed in dropping his torpedoes close as 250 yards from the enemy and always from the regulation 60 feet. This called for rare flying skills and considerable sang-froid. Flying at around 90 mph, the Swordfish offered a slow, bulky and combustible target for enemy anti-aircraft gunfire.

During the Battle of Crete, *Formidable* was badly damaged by Stukas and she was sent to the USA for repairs. No 829 Squadron was disbanded, Osborn and four other experienced pilots joining 830 Squadron in Malta, at the beginning of June 1941. His first flight from Malta was a night attack against a large ship, steaming south at nine knots with all its lights burning brilliantly. Osborn spotted the red cross on her hull which denoted a hospital ship. Nevertheless he was ordered to attack —

intelligence had reported that Axis hospital ships might be carrying troops and arms. The independently-minded Osborn did not consider the target fair game and deliberately aimed his torpedo to miss astern. The squadron was duly blamed such poor marksmanship on "indecision". Over the next few months Osborn led numerous attacks on Axis ships, destroying at least 50,000 tons of enemy shipping carrying cargoes for Rommel's troops in North Africa. This earned him a DSO.

One night he found and sank an enemy merchant ship of 5,000 tons and a destroyer alongside her with a single torpedo, despite appalling visibility and a dense destroyer smoke screen. He repeated close range attacks on tankers and warships within Tripoli and Syracuse harbours called for the utmost skill and daring, through intense AA fire and a dense balloon barrage.

Osborn's luck ran out on the night of November 11, 1941, thanks to the stubbornness of a new squadron CO who insisted that the course he had

set would lead his four Swordfish back to Malta. Instead it resulted in their running out of fuel and ditching off the coast of Sicily. One crewmember was killed. Osborn intended to overpower the Italian coastal patrol that fished them out, but found he had lost the use of his legs through exhaustion. Osborn was incarcerated first in Italy, then — after Mussolini's overthrow — in Germany. He made numerous escape attempts, being desperate to get back to the fight. He found that a persistent obstacle was the senior British officer; he was "like a senior prefect sucking up to the Head" — in this case the German Commandant — he later recalled.

Osborn retired from the navy as a lieutenant-commander in 1947, and joined the Colonial Service, serving first in Sierra Leone, then in Singapore and lastly for ten years in Malaya, where he was a District Officer. During the Emergency, he was involved in counter-insurgency, particularly with ensuring the loyalty of rural populations.

After independence he left the Colonial Service and in 1963 was employed under the Colombo Plan (the Commonwealth initiative of 1950 to promote social and economic development in Asia and the Pacific) as "Hill Tribes adviser" to the Laotian Government, increasingly threatened by the Communist Pathet Lao. In fact he reported to M16. He was an expert on communist infiltration; his Malayan experience had taught him that the "hearts and minds" and the allegiance of the people were crucial.

For his work with M16 Osborn was appointed OBE. He retired to Spain in 1971. Myles Osborn was a short, forceful man with an impatient intelligence who dominated a room through charm and wit. His undeniably boozey parties in Vientiane were legendary. Only a succession of strokes in his last years reduced his physical and mental energy.

He married Pamela Dolman, née Sturges, the widow of an RAF officer, in 1947. He is survived by her and by their daughter.

GENEVRA CAWS

Genevra Caws, QC, barrister, died of a thrombosis on April 14 aged 48. She was born on February 21, 1949.

GENEVRA CAWS was considered by many to be the outstanding woman barrister of her generation. And, if her name was less well known to the public at large than that of some of her contemporaries, it was because of her range of qualities — the most outstanding of which was her modesty.

The daughter of Richard Caws, a chartered surveyor who was for 20 years a Crown Estate Commissioner, and his wife Fiona, she was christened Genevra Fiona Penelope Victoria, but was always known as Jenny.

She was educated at Noring Hill and Ealing High School, where she was an outstanding pupil, and of which she subsequently became a local governor. Awarded an exhibition in Classics to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, she went up in 1966 at the age of 17 to read law.

Her Oxford career was one of unblemished academic success. As the first woman to be elected to such a position in the Oxford University Law Society, she greatly enjoyed the title of Mistress of Moots. She won a distinction in Law Moderations, the Gibbs Law Scholarship, and the Inner Temple in 1969.

She was as at home in Colin Rogers, Gloucestershire, where she and her family lived and farmed at weekends, as she was in her professional life in Chambers. She loved the beauty and simplicity of life in the country and particularly gardening and wild flowers. She and her husband became expert in sheep breeding, which she studied and on which she grew very knowledgeable. She was a voracious reader. She was also a proficient fisherman and skier and it was in Val d'Isère, Switzerland, while on a skiing holiday, that she suddenly died.

Jenny Caws was a formidable lawyer. She had many strengths as an advocate, a gentle but firm voice and calm judgment. But what was best about her as a barrister, was what was best about her as a human being: patience, reasonableness, a courteous capacity to listen, and a real warmth and understanding.

She is survived by her husband, a nine-year-old daughter, her parents, and a brother and a sister.

application, she was invited by the Attorney-General to become Junior Counsel to the Inland Revenue — the second most senior appointment open to the Junior Bar on the common law side. Had the invitation come a few weeks earlier, she might have accepted it; but after anxious consideration, she decided to pursue her chosen course and duly became a Queen's Counsel in the next Easter list.

The success she achieved in the front row can be seen by enumerating the clients who sought in recent years her services for important cases: the Law Society, the Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise, the Further Education Funding Council, government departments and various local authorities.

Between 1993 and 1995 she acted for the Director-General of Fair Trading in the Restrictive Practices Court in contempt proceedings brought against 13 ready-mixed concrete suppliers. This was one of the largest litigation actions in the history of the Office of Fair Trading and resulted in record fines. In 1996 she acted for the Director-General of Fair Trading in bringing to an end the Net Books Agreement. She was elected a bencher of her Inn, the Inner Temple, in 1996.

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SRI MADHAVA ASHISH



Sri Madhava Ashish, British-born Hindu monk and Himalayan hill farmer, died at Miriola, near Almora, Uttar Pradesh, on April 13 aged 77. He was born in Edinburgh on February 23, 1920.

BORN Alexander Phipps into British Army family and educated in England, Sri Madhava Ashish devoted his life to Indian esoteric thought, and to farming and conservation in the Himalayas.

His methods eventually began to be copied by other hill dwellers and, in some areas at least, erosion of the terrain began to be halted. He and his team were honoured by the President of India in 1992 with the Padma Shri Award.

Alexander Phipps was the son of Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Phipps, Royal Artillery. He was educated at Sherborne, after which he trained as an engineer at the Chelsea Aeronautical Engineering College. He initially worked on testing aircraft in England before transferring to aircraft production at Duxford in India.

After the war he toured India and was captivated by the life at the ashram at Uttara Brindaban, in the corner of India between the borders of Bihar and Nepal.

He then built a zoo in

reverse, with the wild animals on the outside of the cages (sometimes asleep on top of them) and the domestic animals restrained inside, with their food being harvested and brought to them to feed. The cages, tiger and leopard proof, were protected by Bhutia dogs which he acquired from the nomadic herdsmen.

Through this enclosure he created a green mountain which, when seen from the air, stands out like an oasis in the desert. This experiment in hill farming is successfully being copied by others. The subject of agriculture, for which he wrote much of the curriculum, is now taught in the mountain schools.

Nominally a Hindu, he saw

all religions as having a common goal. He spent much time meditating and helping others to search for their path to God. He became interested in Indian esoteric thought after he first visited the ashram of Rama Mahaishi, and continued his studies with Sri Krishna Prem with whom he was taken when he became a monk.

As a hill farmer he had

become a pioneer of conservation in the Himalayas. The

tragedy of the Himalayas is

over-cropping by domestic ani-

mals which wander un-

checked, making it impossible

for younger plants to replace

older trees when they are felled, leading to erosion on a

catastrophic scale. Because of

the relationship between the

ashram and the village Ashish

was able to enclose the village

land on the mountain so that

hungry domestic animals

could not browse, destructive-

ly, at will.

He then built a zoo in

Service dinners

The Queen's Royal Lancasters Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Swinburn, Colonel of The Queen's Royal Lancasters, presided at the annual reunion dinner of The Queen's Royal Lancasters Regimental Association held on Saturday at the Waldorf Hotel.

The Queen's Royal Hussars Major-General Richard Barron, Colonel of The Queen's Royal Hussars, presided at the annual dinner of the Regimental Association held on Saturday at the Mount Royal Hotel, Marble Arch. The General Strike ended 1926.

Alcoholics Anonymous was founded by William Wilson in Akron, Ohio, 1935.

The coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, 1937.

The minimum voting age in Britain was lowered from 21 to 18, 1969.

British Army Civil Affairs Group

Brigadier A.S. Craig, Commander Engineers Land, was the principal guest at the inaugural dinner of the British Army Civil Affairs Group held on Saturday at the Royal Engineers Officers Mess, Minley Manor.

Lieutenant-Colonel P.W. Hayward Broomfield, Commanding Officer, was in the chair.

Service luncheon

1st Gurkha Rifles Major-General D.G.T. Horsford presided at a luncheon held on Saturday at the Gurkha Museum, Winchester, to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1st Gurkha Rifles Regimental Association.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

BORN MAY 12, 1820

It is 100 years ago to-day since Florence Nightingale was born. When Queen Victoria, her senior by a year, came to the Throne, she was a girl of 17. Nineteen years later she came home from the Crimea, having made her name, for all the world as long as the world shall last, an abiding symbol of the highest and purest womanly devotion. From then to the day of her death, only four years before the storm of the Great War burst upon Europe, she was almost always confined to her house. The strain of her work for the sick and wounded and dying soldiers had sapped her bodily strength. But the flame of her soul was never quenched. The lamp that she had lit at Scutari burnt steadily to the end. Those 54 years of invalid life in Mayfair were even more fruitful in service to the Army and humanity in general than the long and strenuous and agonizing months of her toil at the

ON THIS DAY

May 12, 1920

The centenary of the birth of Florence Nightingale provided an opportunity for a reappraisal of her work, and a salute to one who "being dead yet speaketh".

seat of war. When, a year or two before her death, she received the Order of Merit, the fact that she was still alive came as something of a surprise to most of her fellow-countrymen. For them she was the Lady of

THE TIMES TODAY

MONDAY MAY 12 1997

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NEWS

Howard campaign suffers setback

■ Michael Howard's Tory leadership bid suffered a serious setback when it emerged that two former ministerial colleagues plan to go public with damaging allegations about his performance as Home Secretary.

Ann Widdecombe, the Home Office Minister of State from July 1995, will break her silence over Mr Howard's controversial dismissal of Derek Lewis as director general of the Prisons Service in October 1995. Page 1

Brown to phase out mortgage tax relief

■ Gordon Brown will use his first Budget to launch a purge on the "get-rich-quick" culture and to use new taxes to fund a radical welfare programme. One of the biggest changes will be the phasing out of mortgage interest tax relief that gives some ten million homeowners help of £27 a month. Page 1

Brown suits himself

Gordon Brown is to slay another sacred cow next month by abandoning formal dress for a lounge suit when he delivers the Chancellor's Mansion House speech. Page 1

Hague's party piece

William Hague is to take his Tory leadership campaign to the party's local activists by embarking next week on a tour of constituency associations. Page 2

Rover's long life

Science has discovered that a year-old dog is a fully grown and sexually mature 18-year-old, and not seven years as Britain's 6.5 million dog owners persist in thinking. Page 3

Blunkett's agenda

The Government will force local authorities to shut failing schools that are not improving, even before the law is in place. David Blunkett said: "I want to create momentum". Page 3

Teenage hang-ups

Most children, aged 11 to 16, worry about their appearance, with concerns topped by overweight, spots and ugly teeth. Girls and poorer children are more anxious about their looks. Page 5

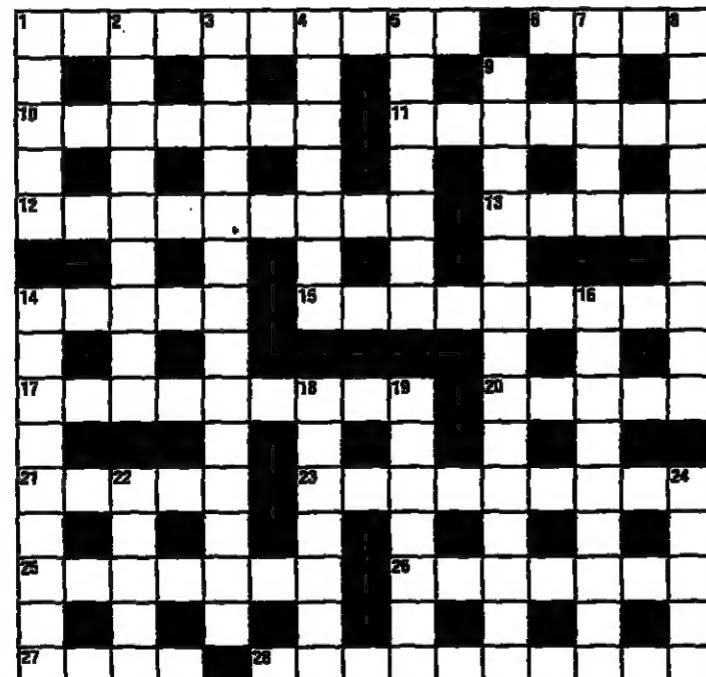
Gulf War inquiry

Defence ministers are to order a new investigation into the extent of the official "cover up" over the "Gulf War syndrome". Page 6

Kasparov battles for Man's honour

■ Garry Kasparov, "the last best hope of mankind", was worried as he prepared for the final duel in the six-game chess match with the IBM computer Deep Blue. Man and machine have three draws and one win each. The Russian grandmaster said of his silicon rival: "I can out-calculate any player in the world, but I cannot out-calculate the machine". Page 13

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,477



ACROSS

- College has exotic tree planted by crank (10).
- Article finally exposes character on the staff (4).
- American doctors operating using Buggins' method, we hear (7).
- Zola's initial reason for moving (7).
- Break down as offer is beginning to excite (9).
- Teams second before 13th July, for instance (5).
- A sort of nose mostly okay for smell (5).
- Morning gathering for children to sing (4,2,3).
- Flower-girl replacing centre of third cape (5,6).
- He may take some interest if you pop in his shop (5).
- Create ruff fuss after Company cancel steamer for island (5).
- State of string in an instrument, maybe (9).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,476 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

- Integration achieved by single head (7).
- His pulling out may hasten loss of set (7).
- Notice pipe's beginning to leak (4).
- After dropping one, coach gets criticised and moved (10).

DOWN

- Refuse, you say, to specify this body-part (5).
- Remains of bread and butter? (6).
- The sailors' duet when adrift in calm waters (5,9).
- Upsetting reports about son in part of school year (7).
- Under a day before spider achieves the greatest height (7).
- He's landed face-up right in it (5).
- It offers a choice for those entering pools (9).
- Walkabout — how like our monarch (14).
- About to get gold medal in sporting event (9).
- High speed isn't breaking hand that turns (9).
- Zola, for example, presenting a small volume to employer (7).
- Row past sandy ridge in faraway port (7).
- This magistrate always sent up without quarter (5).
- Well-known saw (5).

AA INFORMATION

London Road and Weather conditions
Wet Roads - All regions 0336 466 010
Dry Roads - All regions 0336 461 740
Inside 0205 0336 467 200
P25 and Link Roads 0336 461 740
National Railways 0336 461 710
Channel crossings 0336 461 720
London to Heathrow 0336 461 700
& other airports

Weather by Fax 0336 461 200

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